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STUART HARRES

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Lilley claim over offshore trust

# Treasury was 'kept in dark' by Robinson

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the minister under pressure over his financial affairs, was last night accused of being "eco-nomical with the truth" when seeking advice from senior civil servants.

The charge was made by Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, after Sir Terence Burns, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, disclosed that he had not conducted detailed inquiries into the Paymaster General's offshore trust usually a device for avoiding tax - and had concluded that it operated as a blind trust, at arms length

Sir Terence said in a letter to Mr Lilley that the Orion trust offered similar protection to that provided by a blind trust" there was no reason to consider it further".

But Mr Lilley claimed that Mr Robinson had kept Sir Terence in the dark about the nature of the Guernsey-based trust and that his conduct, while not illegal, conflicted Sith the code of conduct for

ministers. The complex share dealings carried out by Orion in the run-up to the election — involving the purchase of some E10 million of shares in one of Mr Robinson's former companies - showed that Sir Terence had been wrong to conclude that the trust operated blind and that Mr Robinson had no influence over its By Nicholas Wood



activities. "Mr Robinson failed to tell the Permanent Secretary that his family trust did not behave like a blind trust, but engaged in transactions with his companies' shares at times convenient to him both economically and politically," Mr Lilley said.

"It is precisely such transactions that a blind trust is supposed not to allow so that there can never be a suspicion that a minister is engaged in

rearranging his assets."

Mr Lilley added that he doubted Sir Terence had understood the nature of an offshore trust. "Probably the Permanent Secretary does not have a clue what an offshore trust in Guernsey is like. He just took the Paymaster General's word for it.

He has now written again to

Sir Terence urging him to tell Mr Robinson that his Orion trust was not a blind trust. He added that when Sir Terence advised Mr Robinson, he had apparently been unaware of Orion's purchase last year of E10 million of shares in Mr Robinson's company Stenbell. or that Orion owns a big stake in Mr Robinson's former company Transtec.

"I am not saying it is illegal. The significance is that this trust does not behave like a blind trust. It has not behaved like a blind trust in the past and cannot be assumed to be behaving like a blind trust in the future. It is a trust which has an active ongoing relationship with Geoffrey Robinson. It is not compatible with the ministerial code of conduct."

Mr Robinson insisted again, however, that he had acted properly and in line with rules for ministers. He told The Times: "Sir Terence Burns makes it quite clear that I acted in line with the ministerial code and in accordance

with his advice." Treasury officials also de-fended their minister, saying that Mr Lilley had misinter-preted Sir Terence's letter, ignoring the words "similar protection". "That's clear that the (Orion) trust offered similar protection to the blind trust," one aide said.

Taxing times, pages 18, 19 High life, page 20



Geoffrey Robinson arriving in Coventry. On the return journey, he subjected himself to six hours of questions, but answers came there none

#### Hot mints and a cool head in the minister's Jag

BY JAMES LANDALS POLITICAL REPORTER

GEOFFREY ROBINSON lent round in the cream leather-bound front seat of his burgundy four-litre Jaguar

Sovereign and asked: "Would you like The embattled Paymaster General yesterday exposed *The Times* to the full force of his undoubted charm

when he took time from discussions with his lawyers and visited his Coventry North-West constituency. As I wondered about the propriety

of accepting extra strong mints from a Minister of the Crown, Mr Robinson declared he was in fine fettle. "If you start worrying about things like this and you don't get on with the job, you are lost. You have no choice." It was journalists are out there crawling all over my affairs." Once lured into the car. I was trapped for six hours.

For a minister often accused of avoiding the press, Mr Robinson was relaxed and charming. His financial affairs were, however, strictly off limits. He also knew that the best way to deal with the press is to be nice. But what about his trusts? What is

his involvement with Orion and Transtec? Answers were not forthcoming and even the smallest response was entirely off the record and not for

Like many experienced politicians Mr Robinson uses the canny technique of side-stepping questions by asking questions himself. He wanted to know everything about me. even Continued on page 2, col 5

#### WEATHER ... CROSSWORD.....32 COURT & SOCIAL .....24 LETTERS. ACCOUNTANCY......52-? LAW REPORT... THEATRES .... BUSINESS NEWS.... 27-31 UNIT TRUSTS... SHARE PRICES.... **WEEKEND MONEY57-64** SPORT.... WEEKEND

#### Football penalty

GARDENING.

SHOPPING ....

PROPERTY ...

TRAVEL

FAITH ....

The Football Association gave suspended sentences for mis-conduct to goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers, who have admitted forecasting match results. The pair were handed a six-month ban and £10.000 fine suspended for two years. Segers now plays for Wolverhampton Wanderers. Grobbelaar is hoping to resume his playing career...... Page 33

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#### Warning to Heathrow passengers

TRAVELLERS using Heathrow could face delays today as airlines struggle to get their services back to normal after the fire that paralysed the world's busiest international airport yesterday. More than 300 flights were

cancelled, thousands of pas-sengers stranded and there were miles of traffic jams. Terminal One, where the fire broke out, was closed for ten hours: Terminals Two and Three were also shut for several hours.

The blaze is thought to have started in an extractor duct above a fast food restaurant and last night safety and fire experts were investigating how the blaze spread so swiftly throughout the terminal. Passengers were warned to check with their airlines if they intend to fly to Europe or

Safety inquiry, page 5

British cities today.

#### Blair claims victory in battle over euro 'club'

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

BRITAIN and France remained locked in a ferocious battle over the single currency last night with both sides claiming victory after a deal on membership of the "club" managing the euro.

On a day of heated ex-changes inside and outside the European Council summit in Luxembourg an agreement was finally struck after 10 hours of wrangling. British officials insisted the deal had given Tony Blair all that he had been arguing for. But the French and several other countries contested that claim after a confrontation in which the Prime Minister had dug in his heels in the style of Margaret Thatcher and John Major. He won, as expected, his demand that the Council of Finance Ministers (Ecofin) should remain the only decision-making body on economic and financial affairs. But he appeared to have accepted that the "club" could discuss, without Britain in attendance, a wider range of issues than suggested by officials earlier

in the week.

There was also a resigned acceptance by British ministers that there would be nothing to stop single currency countries meeting on their own before Ecofin meetings and agreeing what line to take. The strains of Mr Blair's first big European battle became clearly apparent when a conversation between himself and Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, was accidentally recorded and transmitted by Danish television. In it a clearly exasperated Mr Blair was trying to X meetings. The conversation ended with Mr Blair turning to one of his officials, shaking his head and raising his arms in frustration.

The French also described Mr Blair as being agitated and making repeated interruptions around the conference table. The ill-tempered wrangle delayed the summit's main business of launching the eastward move of the EU to the Soviet bloc and it was seen by some as souring the atmosphere between Britain and her partners on the eve of the British presidency, which

starts on January 1. The spokesman for President Chirac of France described Mr Blair as "arguing passionately and repeated-ly interrupting". Helmut Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 23

#### "amusing that at this moment some 50 THE SATURDAY TIMES Bigger and Better

**BUSINESS** 

Today the best City pages talk to Lord Moyne, at the beart of the Campess scandal Starting Page 26 with share prices

s and the co

in house prices next year in section 2

**FULL INDEX** 

Back Page

#### Internet prepares for a virtual merry Christmas

tell Mr Poos that he was not

asking for, but "demanding",

the right to attend most Euro-

By Lin Jenkins

THE latest fad this Christmas is sending virtual cards to colleagues, business associates, friends and family as the number of people with electronic mail addresses increases by tens of thousands each day.

Traditional seasonal tidings are taking the most modern route via email into offices and homes. Many virtual cards have additional features of festive jingles and are animated allowing snow to fall. Santa's sleigh to be pulled through the sky and reindeer to do comic turns in the manner of the more frivolous specimens in the

Those who wish to ingratiate themselves further can also send virtual



Electronic season's greetings

Christmas largesse in the form of emailed bottles of sherry, whisky or champagne or even virtual bouquets

If that does not adequately reflect the required level of seasonal goodwill then the sender can opt for virtual kisses and cuddles. The cards are produced cheaply and

scanned on to Web sites so that users can choose a card and writes in his own message. The card is sent free of

Owners of Web sites offer the service to attract more "hits" to their page and therefore increase the fees they can charge for advertising on their site.

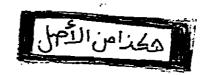
Nigel Powell, a writer on the Internet, said: "Anybody can do it with a scanner costing a couple of hundred quid to put the graphics into the system, a laptop computer and a telephone line. Some people put them on for fun, others to get more hits on their site. The worldwide Web is about

making money from advertising. While you are choosing a card you will also see the logo of the advertiser.

Mark Hasting, policy adviser at the Institute of Managment, said: "E-mail Christmas cards are fast and serve the objective of showing that you know how to work that computer that sits on your desk. On the other hand, it could be seen as a bit sad to spend your time doing Christmas cards. I prefer the cardboard ones, they are somehow more artistic than the press of a botton."

The United Nations Children's Fund yesterday launched the first charity Internet Christmas card. It is available from their Website and they ask users to make a donation.





### Labour threatens to make radio waves



'I hardly shout at people any more' Chris Evans, media mogu Page 9



'She is plastic. But she is happy and that is all that counts' James Bone's **New York Diary** 

Page 12



'We had to play along with the criminals'

**Lord Moyne** 

Page 30

BY NICHOLAS WATT POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has declared war on Radio 4's Today programme and issued a blunt warning that government ministers will be pulled off the air if John Humphrys, the presenter, persists in interrupting them.

In a curt letter to Today's editor, Labour's chief spin-doctor complained that the "John Humphrys problem" was spiralling out of control after he gave Harriet Harman a rough ride over her plans to cut benefits to single parents.

Labour was furious when Mr Humphrys accused the Social Security Secretary of "Alice In Wonder-land Stuff" on Wednesday morning. hours before left-wing MPs revolted against the Government's plans to reduce benefits by up to Ell a week.

David Hill, Labour's chief media spokesperson, told Jon Barton, Today's editor: "We have had a council of war and are now seriously considering whether, as a party, we will suspend co-operation when you make bids through us for Govern-

Mr Hill, who plays a key role in masterminding the party's slick media operation, condemned the interview as a "ridiculous exchange". In his letter, which was leaked to the Liberal Democrats, he said: "John Humphrys interrupted so much that she [Ms Harman] was never permitted to develop a single answer. Frankly none of this can go on. We need to talk as this is now serious."

Labour's missive so infuriated senior staff on Today that Mr Barton wrote a strong letter to Mr Hill defending the programme. He said: "I thought the encounter demonstrated John's characteristic strengths. John was well briefed and had a clear sense of direction in the interview."

Mr Barton insisted that Ms Harman was given a chance to respond to the questions and he pointed out she had raised no objections after the interview. He added: "We would obviously be very sorry if you decided to 'suspend cooperation' between Labour and the Today programme. The losers would be the listeners who would lose valuable opportunities to hear key government policies subjected to intelligent and vigorous scrutiny."

Mr Humphrys, who will be up early this morning to present Today despite a heavy cold, gave a diplomatic response to Labour's letter. He said: "It was an absolutely routine interview. I was just doing my job."

His cautious remarks concealed deep anger among senior staff at the hostile tone of Mr Hill's letter. One

insider described the letter as "grotesque" for making such a personalised attack on Mr Humphrys. Today, which is celebrating its

fortieth anniversary, has regular confrontations with the Government of the day. Brian Redhead, the late presenter, once asked Lord Lawson of Blaby to observe a minute's silence for suggesting that he was a Labour

supporter.
The Liberal Democrats, who released the letter, condemned Labour last night for attempting to bully a respected programme. Norman Baker, the MP for Lewes, said: "It is outrageous for an elected Government to refuse to discuss its policies."



Humphrys: just doing a routine interview

#### Prince's Trust gives £3m for millennium projects

THE Prince's Trust is to celebrate the millennium with a E3 million award scheme to help disadvantaged young people start community projects, the Prince of Wales announced yesterday.

The Trust's M-Power millennium awards, which have received £2.7 million in fund-ing from the Millennium Commission, will help at least 250 projects with grants of up to £10,000 over the next three years. Thousands of youngsters, many from underprivileged backgrounds, are expected to get involved.

The awards will be given to youth groups to run schemes that build community spirit and shared culture, provide a valuable service or "empower" the disadvantaged. "It will provide over 2,500 disadvantaged young people with all sorts of opportunities to make lasting contributions to local communities," Prince Charles said at the launch of the scheme at the Limelight nightclub in central London. It was introduced by Midnight Blue, a band and music-teaching group funded by the Trust.

Among projects that have won funding under similar Trust award schemes are an African drum band, a telephone helpline for the young and a non-sectarian campaign to persuade Northern Ireland's vouth to vote.



### Widow hails winning citizens

commercial sponsors for the good citizen awards set up in memory of Philip Lawrence the headmaster murdered outside his London school (Richard Ford writes).

Sponsors would be expected to work in partnership with the Home Office in supporting the annual awards, which were made for the first time yesterday. Almost £50,000 of government money was spent on

were won by five groups of young people for projects ranging from helping the Bangladeshi community in Luton to a radio station in Wandsworth, south London.

Mrs Lawrence, the headteacher's widow, praised the commitment of the young people. It was, she said, an excellent tribute to her Speaking at the awards

ceremony at the British Acad-

Arts in Piccadilly, she said she had been "haunted by the pain" of the many thousands of people who had written to her since her husband died expressing their concern about the breakdown of civilised society.

Mrs Lawrence said that all those who had won awards had worked courageously, often against a backdrop of aggression and racism to create a more fruitful and

Continued from page )

The five winning projects, which each received £500 to help their work, were the Crescent Summer School project in Luton, Fundamental FM in Wandsworth, Rawthorpe Community Help panel in Huddersfield, Tredegar Comprehensive school in south Wales and Yogi's Sobar in Grangemouth. Scotland.

### Sceptics want cap on currency poll spending

LEADING Eurosceptics are pressing for strict curbs on the amounts of money that can be spent by the opposing sides in any future referendum on a

European single currency.
They fear that unless Lord
Neill, the public standards
watchdog, regulates the contest, the "No" campaign will be heavily outspent by the big battalions of Government. unions and captains of industry. They are also concerned that the country could be "brainwashed" into backing the euro by lavish and un-checked propaganda by its well-heeled supporters.

In an attempt to create a level playing field, the sceptics are demanding equal sums of public money to be set aside to fund the rival campaigns. They are also calling for a cap on the amounts of campaign cash that can be raised from business and private sources, full disclosure of all donations and a ban on money from abroad — including the European Commission.

The proposals are set out in a letter from Lord McAlpine of West Green, leader of the Referendum Movement, to Lord Neill, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, which is reviewing party political funding. The Referendum Movement, an umbrella body for the "No" campaign, arose from the demise of the Referendum Leading article, page 23 Party after the election. It is

Alpine, a former Conservative Party treasurer, has urged Lord Neill to act now - five years from the most likely date for a referendum - because of mounting evidence that a shadow "Yes" campaign is already underway. He is lear-ful that the current 55-60 per cent level of public opposition to the euro will be steadily eroded over the next few years. His letter is clearly aimed at sparking public debate about the complex issues involved.

understood that Lord Mr.

The 1975 referendum on continued British membership of the Common Market included state funding for a single mailshot to the electorate from both camps, but imposed no limits on cam-

paign spending.
In his letter, Lord McAlpine points to the formation by the Chancellor of a standing com-mittee to prepare Britain for entry into a single currency. Its members include the Bank of England, trade unions, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and the CBI. He also highlights the way big firms have been listed as supporters of groups sup-

porting the single currency. He calls on Lord Neill to set up a committee of representatives of both camps to oversee the implementation of new rules for a referendum campaign. He has sent copies of his letter to Tony Blair and Po ca

Suicide

tigniw

himself

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System 7.1 or higher. For PCs, the Internet access software takes about 8 megabytes of hard disk

bytes of RAM to run. For Mac, you will need 10 megabytes of hard disk space and

#### ended in deadlock the Luxembourg presidency spent the afternoon trying to find a compromise that somehow met Mr Blair's desire to be in the so-called Euro-X committee as a matter of course and

Kohl, the German Chancellor, was re-

ported by other delegations as claiming

not to understand what Mr Blair was

arguing about. After the morning session

at home Continued from page 1 which football team I support-

Robinson

ed and where I bought my According to his assistant of 14 years. Dr Liz Hasthorpe, Mr Robinson is tough enough to get through his current difficulties. "He's pretty thick skinned. Nothing much phases him. He's a pretty

tough character." But she admitted that the pressure occasionally had got to him. Last week she was speaking to him on the phone when an official told him he had to go and vote in the Commons on a measure concerning voluntary euthanasia. He said: "I think I feel like a voluntary candidate at the

Mr Robinson had begun his day at a private reception to celebrate the opening of a new road from the M6 to the city centre. After a swift cup of tea and lunchtime sandwich, Mr Robinson headed to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. There he handed out prizes, including House of Commons pens, to schoolchildren who had won a Christmas card painting competition. Several years ago Mr Robinson set up the competition to decide what should decorate the cards he sent to hundreds of constituents, officials and friends at the festive time.

Mr Robinson then headed off into the rolling countryside to deal with three constituency

But the most pressing issue concerning constituents was not offshore trusts or battles with the local council. They simply wanted to know why Coventry City football club had dropped their long-standing goalkeeper for today's game. Having been forced to give up his directorship, Mr Robinson could not comment. satisfied French insistence that the single currency countries should decide when

Blair claims euro 'club' victory

those outside EMU should attend. Mr Blair had, however, been ready to make some concessions to his colleagues. The French said Mr Blair had made an important concession in accepting that "ins" could exclusively discuss matters of mutual interest. The "ins" could discuss,

meet and define their own agenda. "This

was a major shift in the British attitude."

M Chirac's spokesman said. Under the deal the single currency countries will notify the "out" countries of what they intend to discuss in Euro-X meetings. The "outs" will have the right to be invited when matters of common interest are being discussed.

Leading article, page 23

### Call for low cos home

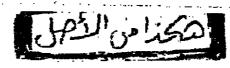
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### Music patron denies charges over dead girl

FRIENDS and family of Vin-cent Meyer, president of the Philharmonia Orchestra. were united in their disbelief yesterday after he was formally accused in Switzerland of manslaughter, rape and sexu-al acts against a minor.

Mr Meyer, a millionaire philanthropist, whose wife Elizabeth is the niece of the Earl of Moray, has been held in prison in Geneva since December 2. The alleged offences were said to have been committed over three years across Europe, including Switzerland, between 1989 and

The girl, who was aged between 12 and 15 at the time of the alleged incidents, committed suicide last August at the age of 20. It is understood that she left a suicide note in which she named a man as

Claude-François Wenger the investigating magistrate handling the case, said that a hearing on December 23 would decide whether to prolong Mr Meyer's detention.

Jacques Volery, a spokesman for the Geneva police, said investigations were underway in at least five other European countries.

It is understood that the allegations leading to his detention were first made two months ago by the girl's family. Mr Meyer denies all the accusations against him.

Mr Meyer, 46, whose for-tune is derived from the banking interests of his grandfather, was born in France but took Swiss nationality four years ago. He is credited with saving the London-based Philharmonia, after a cut in its grants, and is a keen sponsor of Glyndebourne opera and contemporary music in Britain. Mr Meyer married his second wife in a traditional ceremony in Scotland last Family shocked

as Swiss hold president of

Philharmonia, reports Emma

Wilkins

year. Mrs Meyer, 30, who was educated at Westminster pub-lic school in London and Yale

university, is expecting their Mr Meyer has three child-ren. Two are from his first marriage and a third is from a relationship after his marriage brokê down.

Sir George Christie, chairman of Glyndebourne, said Mr Mever was a civilised man who would find it difficult to endure being in prison. "He would find it appalling. These allegations are absolutely awful and shocking. I became friends with him through Glyndebourne and I will remain friends with him." He

> Vincent a long time and I don't Mr Bragg said Mr Meyer had a good relationship with his first wife, who lives in Paris, and is devoted to their

We

is a very quiet, private man with a good sense of humour.

He is sociable and very agree-able to be with. He loves

talking about music but he is

not a show off. There is not a

trace of vulgarity about him.

years and piccolo player with

the Philharmonia, has stayed

at Mr Meyer's house near Aix.

in the south of France. "He is a

very loyal and warm friend.

He is a serious-minded man

who cares passionately about

the orchestra. "I can't see how

these allegations could possi-

bly be true. There's been no

hint of impropriety of this sort at all in his life. I have known

Keith Bragg, a friend for 14

upport," he added.

'As a father he is brilliant, I have seen him playing with the children on holiday and they are just a normal happy family.

Mr Meyer's wife said she believed her husband was innocent. Speaking from the couple's home in Geneva, she said: "There is no question in my mind. Everything will be



Phillipa Lepley, whose wedding-dress designs may have been favoured by Ffion Jenkins, who will marry William Hague next week

#### Ffion may decide on something old

By KATHERINE BERGEN

A LONDON designer with a flair for dressing glamorous blondes has emerged as the favourite in the guessing game over who has made Ffion Jenkins's dress for her wedding to William Hague on Friday — and it is possible that the Conservative leader's fiancée has opted for a second-hand number.

Friends of Miss Jenkins have pointed to Phillipa Lepley's boutique on the Fulham Road as top of her shopping list. Associates of Neil Cunningham, who made the black lace number Miss Jenkins wore in Blackpool for her party conference debut, confirm that he has not been asked to try again.

Julia Carling, Ulrika Johnson and Caron Keating are among other well-known blondes who married wearing

spokeswoman from Brides magazine describes

Phillipa Lepley's style as. 'clean, elegant and classic". The dresses often include beading and corset-style bodices. "Phillipa is particularly good with curvy figures. Most dresses are in the

£2,000-£2,500 range. One of Ms Lepley's sales assistants appeared to confirm the latest rumours when asked about the dress: "She actually didn't get it from this particular shop. We have heard on the grapevine that she may have bought it from the Wedding Shop."

If so, this would show

admirable frugality on Miss Jenkins's part. The Chelsea shop in question - where the couple have their wedding list sells second-hand dresses by some of the country's best known designers, including Ms Lepley, Catherine Walker and Bruce Oldfield.

But amid all the secrecy surrounding Miss Jenkins's plans, the Wedding Shop itself was insisting that it had nothing to do with the hortest dress on the political scene.

As for the couple's honey moon, reports that it will be spent at the romantic Lake Palace Hotel in India could well have been planted as a false trail. One Tory official boasted: "They are going somewhere the press will



Julia Carling, on her wedding day, in a Lepley dress

to 1pm

elephone

he name

narks of

#### Suicide wired ~ himself to mains

A COMPUTER programmer who owed hundreds of pounds to pub landlords killed himself with a Heath Robinson suicide device that electrocuted him while he slept, an inquest has heard.

Geoffrey White, 52, of Reedham, Norfolk, took his own life last month by wiring his arms to a mains socket and setting a timer to start the current in the middle of the night. He wrapped copper wire leads around both arms between his elbows and shoulders, attached them to a timer set for 4.30am and plugged the system in, before drinking

himself to sleep.
Police found his body on
November 30 after breaking into his home when neighbours became concerned. He was last seen on November 27.

Mr White, a freelance computer programmer, was a loner who drank heavily, Nor-wich Coroner's Court was told. Jonathan Collorick, landlord of the Lord Nelson where Mr White was a regular customer, said he often drank

15 pints of beer a day.

Mr White owed £500 to Mr

Collorick after cheques he had cashed had bounced. He was also in debt to other local

No members of Mr White's family attended the inquest. William Armstrong, the coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide. It was abundantly clear" that Mr White intended to take his own life, he said.

### Police faked car crash to trap paedophile

POLICE faked a road accident as part of a massive investigathat uncovered paedophile who had eluded ustice since the 1970s. David Stanley, 49, was jailed for 18 years yesterday after being convicted of abusing boys who were in his charge as a scoutmaster and a care assistant at a private children's

Meyer: "quiet man with

home. Church of England vicar. were praised for their courage last night for giving public evidence that they were abused by Stanley as boys. Stanley, now married with two teenage children, said the accusations were lies.

West Mercia police launched an investigation in November 1996 after becoming suspicious of him following an incident of indecent assault at a swimming baths in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire. One man was jailed for 12 months and officers began looking closely into Stanley's

background. Police arranged an elabo-rate plan to seize his home computer before he was able to erase pornographic pictures collision in the road outside his house. Stanley came out, and the police then held him and rushed in to carry out a legai search.

When police extended their operations, they discovered that Stanley had faced allegations of abuse in 1979 at the Cotsbrook Hall care home in Shifnal, Shropshire. He had resigned and the case was abandoned for lack of corrobo-

helps victims of abuse, officers traced people who were child-ren and staff in the 1970s, interviewing 300 witnesses around the country. At Worcester Crown Court, Stanley, a computer consultant in Telford, was convicted of 16 sex offences and one charge of possessing pornographic photographs with a

view to distributing them on

ration. Working with social

workers and a charity which

the Internet. He was given 16 vears for the abuse and two years for the pornography. The abuse, committed against boys aged ten to 15, began while he was a scoutmaster between 1970 and 1976. and then continued for another three years when he worked at the children's home. Judge Michael Mott said the photographs showed his pro-

clivity for boys had not

Cotsbrook Hall-was owned by the same company responsible for the Bryn Alyn home in Wrexham, whose owner John Allen was jailed for six years for paedophile offences. After the case, Detective Chief Inspector John Cashion said of the witnesses: "It has taken immense courage for these men. They will never forget these attacks by a man they should have been able to

#### Test driver who killed man gets 5 months

By KEVIN EASON MOTORING EDITOR

A GERMAN test driver for Vauxhall was jailed for five months yesterday for causing the death of a motoring journalist by dangerous driving.

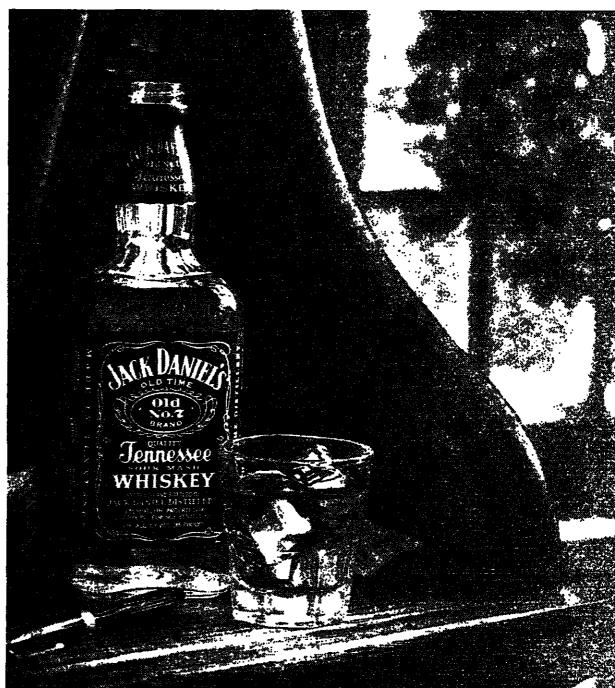
Klaus Menk was also banned at Luton Crown Court from driving for two years. Judge Alan Wilkie and the dead man's girlfriend urged General Motors, Vauxhall's parent company, to end its policy of testing on rural roads around Britain.

Menk, 48, had been flown from his home in Frankfurt to Britain by Opel, Vauxhall's sister manufacturer in Germany, to take part in tests that pitted Vauxhall cars against rivals. Driving a Peugeot 306. Menk tried to follow a lefthand drive Vauxhall Astra in overtaking a Skoda when he came to a blind bend on the B655 near Hitchin in Hertfordshire and was confronted

by an oncoming car.

The driver, Richard Longworth, 39, of Baldock, Hertfordshire, died from internal injuries six days later.

Mary Williams, Mr Long-worth's girlfriend, who founded the road safety organis-ation BRAKE after her mother was killed in a road accident five years ago, said: "It is extremely disappointing that the judge should impose a sentence of just five months." She said she hoped BRAKE could work with General Motors to establish new training



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Even if you're not a Jack Daniel's drinker yourself, you probably have a good friend who is. So chances are you know how loyal he or she is to our smoothsippin' brand. Well, we hope you'll keep that in mind this holiday season. You see, you could wander through a dozen stores to find your friend the perfect gift. Or, we believe, take one look at the photo up above.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

### Sketch of Pooh duet goes for song

Pooh and Piglet singing the Tiddly Pom song

A DRAWING of Winnie the Pooh and his friend Piglet, picked up for just over £3 in 1958, was sold for £31,050 at Christie's, South Kensington,

The work by E. H. Shepard, who illustrated the classic children's stories by A.A. Milne, originally appeared in The House at Pooh Corner in

Shepard, who died in 1976, came to prominance with the publication of Winnie the Pook in 1926. A modest man. he often gave his original drawings to admirers. In recent years they have made enormous prices at auction.

The study shows Pooh and

Piglet sitting on top of a snow-covered five-bar gafe singing the "Tiddly Pom" song. It was estimated at £12,000 to £13,000 and was bought by an anonymous buyer, who had previously bought another Shepard entitled Eeyore's Biethdon for £12,350 (estimated) Birthday for £17,250 (estimate £10,000 to £15,000).

The artist has now become market leader in the specialised world of children's illustrators. A sketch for a chapter heading in The House at Pooh Corner made £67,500 in July and a drawing of Pooh and Piglet inspecting their footprints in the snow went for £80,500 at Christie's last December.

#### The secret war against the Jackal



As Carlos the Jackal goes on trial in Paris, a former head of the French secret service reveals the life-or-death row that raged behind the closed doors of the

Elysée palace when President Mitterrand asked his security chiefs how to deal with the terrorist holding the French state to ransom ... 🤊

News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

### Headmasters cry foul over pupils' unsporting abuse

By John Goodbody, sports news correspondent

of verbal abuse and refused to

declare the innings in time to

give Radley a realistic pros-

pect of victory. Radley's staff

and pupils apologised for their team's sledging, but Richard

Morgan, the warden, later announced that it was "in the

interests of both schools" to

cerned about the bad behav-

iour and foul language of a

minority of spectators and

says that "the school has a

responsibility for the conduct

of every aspect of its sport — including the behaviour of

supporters". Mr Hirst said: The parents are our greatest

supporters but we want to ensure that support should always be positive."

The committee is also con-

suspend fixtures.

INDEPENDENT school pupils who shout abuse at opposing players or officials should be banned from taking part in any sports events, according to headmasters.

After a series of incidents on and off the pitch when "sledging" - personal abuse to intimidate an opponent has been used, heads have decided to act. Guidelines have been sent to all members of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference urging them to act against bad

The circular, from the conference's sports sub-committee, states that it is the responsibility of heads to en-sure that "high standards of conduct obtain in school sports". There should be no "foul or abusive language" and "open criticism of or dissent from, umpiring or refereeing decisions by those playing or watching is always

unacceptable". The committee recommends that any pupil who is in breach of the guidelines should be formally warned - with further sanctions to include suspension

Chris Hirst, the committee's chairman, said: "We are not laying down laws. But we are trying to help headmasters by saying that we think you should have the sanctions." Mr Hirst, Headmaster of

Sedbergh, where Will Carling, the former captain of the England rugby union team, was a pupil, said that the world of professional sport has "raced ahead and attitudes have changed games. All schools have a responsibility to channel competitive instincts into fair play."

The Independent Schools The controversy over the Football Association already has its own disciplinary proce-dure. In the knockout cup it is behaviour of boys comes after a row at a cricket match in June between Marlborough overseen by David Elleray, a and Radley colleges. A Marileading Premiership referee borough batsman complained



Victoria Wood with children Henry, 5, and Grace, 9, after receiving the OBE

#### Stoppard honoured at Palace

to be screened in September, said: "I love my job and irs very nice to think that your work is appreciated. All you do is try to sell tickets, so this is

came to Britain when he was 8, said: "I was instantly proud. I have felt English almost from the day I arrived, but the knighthood puts some kind of seal on that emotion. He added: "I was really sad that my mother died a year ago. She would have liked it very

Sir Tom said the Prince of Wales had told him he took personal pleasure in presenting the knighthood. "In the of Wales as being a staunch

Among other recipients of awards yesterday was Robert Jordan, the former doorkeeper at 10 Downing Street, who received his MBE insignia.

Leading article, page 23

### Wood and

THE comedian Victoria Wood received her OBE insignia at yesterday's Buckingham Palyesteroay's Buckingnan Far-ace investiture and Tom Stoppard became the first dramatist to be knighted since Sir Terence Rattigan.

Ms Wood, 44, currently writing a new television series

Sir Tom, an emigré who

#### Briton is held over Internet sex scheme American customs officers

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

escala bevilder

have arrested a Briton ac-cused of selling paedophile and other pornography on the Internet. Scotland Yard said that Ray Jones, 34, from Ealing, west London, was held after he landed at Miami. He has been secretly indicted by a federal grand jury

after a 15-month operation by the Yard and US investigators. They examined a pornography operation in which photographs were copied in Britain and sent to an Internet service provider in America.

#### Kate DNA tests

Nearly 700 men have volunteered DNA samples to police seeking the killer of Kate Bushell, 14, whose throat was cut four weeks ago as she walked a neighbour's dog in an Exeter lane. Officers have called at 800 houses and taken 2,700 public calls.

#### Operations cut

The number of cancelled NHS operations is increasing. Between April and September. 23,569 patients had operations cancelled — 4 per cent up on the same period last year. The Health Minister Raymess Jay said the ter Baroness Jay said the situation was "unsatisfactory".

#### Lottery culprits

Five shops, including a branch of Tesco, have been suspended from selling National Lottery tickets after council inspectors found them selling to children as young as II. The culprits were among seven shops visited in South-wark, South London.

#### Cuffs for nurses

wants handcuffs issued to staff to help restrain patients. Maurice Lloyd, a former police inspector, says they are needed to protect nurses and doctors at Warrington Gener-al Hospital, Cheshire, from violent attacks.

#### Former PC jailed

A policeman who stole £180 that a man left to his wife before committing suicide, has been jailed for two years. Former PC Michael Hall, 32, of Forest Town, Nottinghamshire, altered a suicide note that referred to £200, Notting-ham Crown Court was told.

#### What a card

The same Christmas card showing two skating ducks has been exchanged every year since 1952 between John Alston and his friend Norma Cousins. It began after Mrs Cousins gave the Alstons, who had a farm pond in Suffolk, a pair of orphaned ducks.

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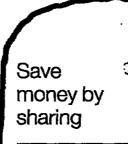
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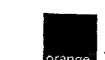
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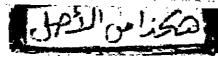
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KEVIN LAMARQUE / RELITERS

### Heathrow fireball escalated with bewildering speed

gating how a simple fire above a hamburger restaurant at Heathrow's Terminal I para-lysed the world's busiest international airport, stranded tens of thousands of passengers and caused hours of traffic gridiock yesterday.

As airlines struggled to restore normal services by this morning, the authorities defended their decision to shut down three of its terminal buildings and all road and rail links. Passengers had to wait ten hours for Terminal 1 to

Fire experts said that if the fire had taken hold during the morning rush hour it could have been catastrophic. One said: This was a blaze that should not have spread so far, so fast."

Heathrow authorities still do not know how much damage was caused nor the cost of repairing the 29-year-old terminal, which had just undergone a £150 million refurbishment

- Tations of

. . . . .

A total of 307 flights were cancelled yesterday, two thirds of them by British Airways. A BA spokesman said: "We hope to run a normal service by today, but there may be some knock-on effect, so travellers early in the day should telephone first."

Many trying to catch flights yesterday abandoned their cars on motorways and main roads. Thousands of passengers arriving on flights complained they had to wait hours for their baggage or for transport to take them to their cars. The Underground network continue what it called a

**Daniel** 

McGrory and

**Michael** 

Horsnell onquestions to

be answered

was suspended. Terminals 2 and 3 were closed for several hours. A spokesman for BAA, the airports operator, said: "It was chaos, but we dare not take chances."

Detective Chief inspector Phillip King defended his decision to close the airport central area. "It was not overreac-tion," he said, "At the time when the fire was taking hold, Our concern was that it would spread to other terminals. Those coming into Heathrow had to pass Terminal 1, so we decided for safety first to shut down everything."

Paul Fox. Heathrow's safety and security director, said: The fact that we had the terminal open again so soon proves that our safety plans were in good order."

Experts want to know why within minutes, the blaze had mushroomed unwards and outwards, spreading through 600 feet of ducting and exploding through the roof. Firemen took four hours to bring it under control, crawling through narrow air vents. London Fire Brigade will

investigation" today. Senior officers believe an accumulation of grease in an extractor duct above the Burger King restaurant caught fire and

destoyed a plant room on the roof containing all the ma-chinery, plumbing, lighting, power and heating which keeps Terminal I alive Officers said the damage would have been worse but for the

in the ceiling voids area there are not sufficient fire spreadprevention techniques, sprinkler and detection systems."

spread through piping.
The flames engulied and

installation of a £1 million membrane in the roof. Ed Galea, director of the Fire Safety Engineering Group at Greenwich University, suggested there was a design flaw. The fire spread rapidly from all accounts, which leads us to suspect that

BAA dismissed suggestions that safety had been sacrificed in its refurbishment budget.



Firefighters on the Terminal I building. Flames from a restaurant spread through 600 feet of ducting and exploded through the roof

HEATHROW, the busiest international airport in the world, started life as a tented village in 1946 serving 18 destinations with a handful of airlines making 9,000 flights a year.

The airport now handles 55 million passengers a year with 93 airlines flying to 220 destinations. There are more than 420,000 flights a year and staff deal with 60 million items of **SHOPFRONT TO THE WORLD** 

baggage. At this time of the year Terminal One can expect to handle 70,000 passengers a day. Only O'Hare airport in Chicago deals with more

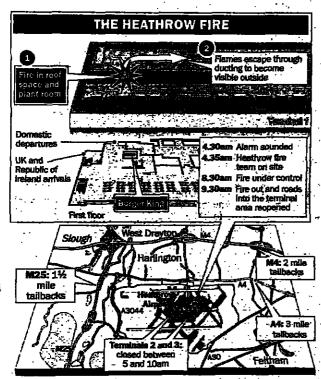
row handles 15 million more passen-

It also generates £3 billion in wages alone each year for the economy, supporting more than 190 passengers in a year.
In the international league Heathbusinesses across the country.

area. It is, perbaps, ironical that the fire started above a fast food outlet, as the airport prides itself on being one gers a year than its nearest rivals: Frankfurt and Hong Kong.

Around 80,000 jobs are in the local

of Britain's biggest eating places. Each day 26,000 cups of tea, 6,500 pints of beer and 6,500 sandwiches are sold to the public. Such is the airport's commercial retail power that it accounts for 10 per cent of the perfume sales in Britain.



### Travellers with nowhere to go tell tales of woe

THE fire which brought to Hamburg was in tears as Heathrow Airport to a stand-still at the start of the Christ-that she did not have anymas rush yesterday created a where to stay in London. mas rush yesterday created a traffic jam of epic pro-

The closing down of Terminal I - which would normally. have dispersed 70,000 passengers to all points of the globe
— led to scenes of confusion and chaos as besieged airline counter staff struggled to cope with the ever-increasing numbers. Passenger introduction were virtually paralysed with endless queues of travellers and luggage trolleys over-flowing at other terminals.

The temporary shotdown of the Underground access be tween 5am and 8am caused huge delays with gridlock in all transport arteries in and out of the airport.

Some airlines told passengers to go home. Others diverted flights to other airports. Some holidaymakers vere invited to swap plane

tickets for rail passes.

Early yesterday Air France cancelled four of its Paris flights and advised its customers to take a train to Waterloo station where their airline tickets would be accepted on

Several airline staff seemed as much in the dark as their customers, giving out conflicting information about whether or not the airport was open and if flights had been

cancelled. Many people caught in transit were left stranded while others had no money to pay for an overnight stay in a hotel. Some were advised to seek refunds from their travel agents. A mother with a child expecting to fly on Lufthansa

A silver-wedding anniver-

sary heliday on Concorde ended disastrously for a couple from Newcastle upon Tyne who were forced to catch a train home. Ernest and Dorothy Wheatley, who had saved for years, were booked to take a domestic flight to Teesside after returning from

New York. Liz Bec. 48, of Salisbury, travelled almost three hours by bus to nicet her British Airways flight to Dusseldorf only to be told upon her arrival to go home. "Nobody seems to know what the hell is going on," she said.

Lesley Timine, 28, of Wimbledon, was told to seek a refund on her planned fourday visit to Moscow after auxiving at the airport at 5 am. Some passengers were left stranded outside the airport unable to reach their cars in the car park and shuttle buses

delayed by several hours.

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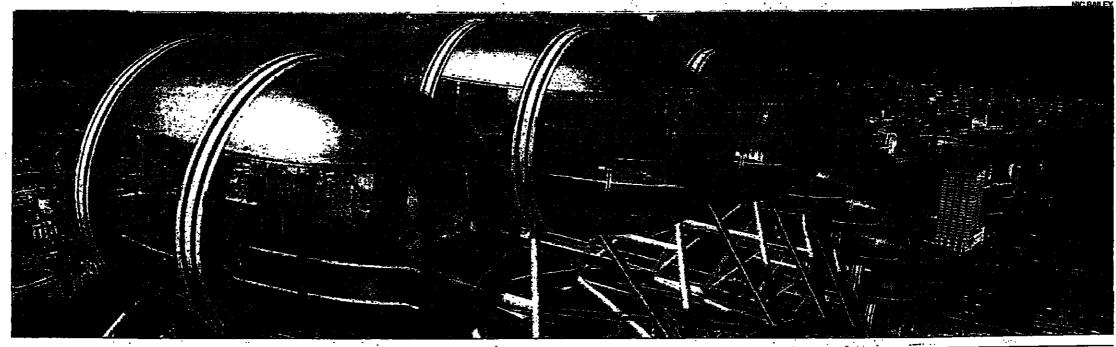




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#### Space-age revolution for the big wheel

THIS is how capsules on the world's biggest Ferris wheel will look when it is built to role Thames South Bank to celebrate the millennium. The computer-generated image shows how "space capsule" cabins and slim supports will reduce the visual impact of the slowly-turning, 500ft-diameter wheel. Its builder will be chosen in the new year from three contestants, two British and one Japanese. Construction will start in March and end in September 1999.



### Fury as BBC shoots down Eurofighter

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BBC Panorama programme criticising the £40 billion Eurofighter aircraft project is going ahead on Monday, despite the threat of libel action from British Aerospace, the prime contractor in Britain for the multirole iet.

The programme — which includes interviews with critics who daim the

project is out of date and a waste of taxpayers' money - has led to an angry exchange of letters between the BBC and BAe. At the heart of the row is the fact that David Lomax, the reporter making the programme, produced an earlier film about Eurofighter for BBC2's Newsnight in June which led to a complaint

Fraser Steel, head of the BBC complaints unit, agreed in writing

that the Newsnight film lacked balance. This did not satisfy BAe whose chief executive, Sir Richard Evans, wrote to John Birt, the BBC Director-General, complaining about the programme's "inaccuracies" and demanding further investigation. This further complaint is now believed to have been largely upheld by the BBC's internal complaints system. But the corporation's formal response is not expected until

after Panorama has gone out. Sir Richard was taken aback to discover that Mr Lomax was to produce a similar film about Eurofighter for Panorama. He was so concerned that it was "once going to be weighted in favour of Eurofighter's critics that be made another complaint to Mr Birt, and also engaged Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners, the libel lawyers. Sir

Richard has refused to provide

either a written statement to be read out during Panorama or a company spokesman to be interviewed until BAe has received assurances that the film is accurate and fair. The MoD

also declined to appear.

Eurofighter, which will cost Britain more than £15 billion for 232 aircraft, has been developed in partnership with Germany, Italy and Spain. The first jet will be in service in 2002.

### Think-tank says Tories were good for the poor

people suffering hardship increased under the Tories are to be dismissed in a report from a right-wing think-tank.

The free-market Institute of Economic Affairs claims that respected groups such as the Child Poverty Action Group and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation distorted figures to press for for higher state benefits or policy changes.

David Green, director of the TEA's health and welfare unit, says that a fair reading of official statistics suggests that the poorest section of society became better off, and that numbers below the poverty line fell. He adds: "It's scandalous that it got into the public imagination that things got worse."

His report, to be published in a few weeks, will renew controversy over the impact of the free-market policies. Dr Green says: The headline claim was that the bottom 10 per cent of the population were 17 per cent worse off over the period 1979 to 1992. In fact. they were better off.

"On the usual definition of the poverty line as 50 per cent of average income, the number below it in 1979 was 8 per cent, compared with 6 per cent in 1992 and 5 per cent in 1995." According to a draft of Dr Green's report, the Rowntree inquiry of 1995 reached its conclusions by deducting housing costs from incomes. It

concluded that "right at the

bottom, before-housing-cost

incomes were no higher than in 1991-92 than they had been

CLAIMS that the number of in 1979; after-housing-cost incomes had fallen 17 per cent". But he says it was wrong to subtract housing costs because "the home we live in is an important element in our standard of life". The high

mortgage rates of the 1980s were a further distortion, artificially depressing income levels when the deduction was made. Also, the figure made no allowance for improved stan-

dards. The proportion in the bottom tenth with central heating rose from 39 per cent in 1979 to 74 per cent in 1992. There were also big increases in ownership of fridge-freezers, cars and videos. If living standards were

measured by household expenditure rather than income, the poor have also been doing better, says the report. A survey by the Institute of Fiscal Studies found that the bottom 10 per cent of people by income in 1992 spent on average 27 per cent more than in 1979, before deduction of housine costs.

The report also highlights a sharp increase in the numbers dependent on state benefits. up from 8.4 per cent in 1971 to 17.4 per cent in 1994. Family breakdown is said to be the biggest single factor.

The criticisms were rejected Richard Best, director of the Rowntree Foundation, who said: "Nobody disputes that during the Thatcher years, the rich got 61 per cent better off and the poor gained little or nothing from the growth in prosperity."

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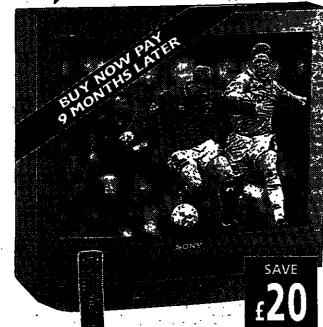
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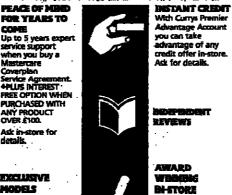


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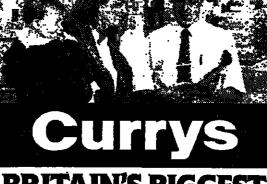
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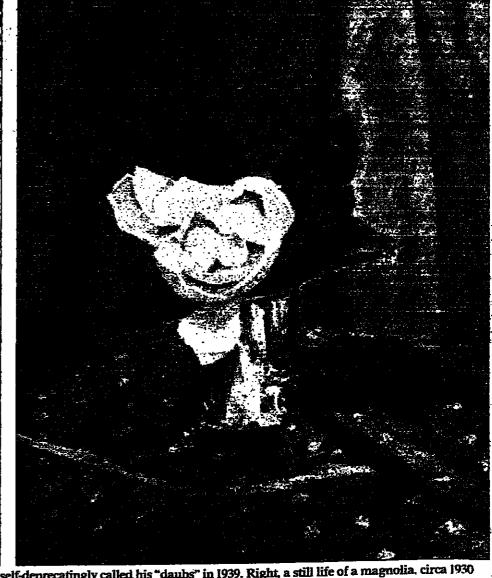
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# How Churchill poured oils on troubled waters







"I rejoice in the highest lights and brightest colours": Ruins of the Cathedral at St Vaast, Arras (1947) and Churchill at work on what he self-deprecatingly called his "daubs" in 1939. Right, a still life of a magnolia. circa 1930

Sir Winston found release in painting, but others now see artistic merit. A new exhibition of his work may reveal its true value, writes **Philip Delves Broughton** 

ainting was more than a pastime to Sir Winston Churchill. In 1949 he told Sir John Rothenstein, director of the Tate Gallery: "If it weren't for painting, I couldn't live. I couldn't bear the strain of things." From January 5 to 17, the largest ever exhibition of Churchill's paintings goes on show at Sotheby's in London. It will prove that Churchill was more than just an enthusiastic amateur.

astic amateur.

Churchill's paintings, which he self-deprecatingly referred to as "daubs", fit easily and unembarrassingly into 20th-century British art. David Coombs, the curator of the exhibition, says: "His works are being appreciated as much for their innate merit as for their painter."

neir painter." Last week, Lord Harris Peckham, the former Conservative Party treasurer and carpet magnate, paid £150,000 for one of Churchill's landscapes, Mimizan, Landes, painted in 1927, amid speculation that it was a wedding present for William Hague and Ffion Jenkins.

Earlier this year, at the sale of the effects of Pamela Harriman, the American Ambassador to Paris and at one point Churchill's daughter-in-law, another Churchill painting went for around £100,000.

Sir Edward Heath owns a

couple of Churchills and Mrs
Thatcher was loaned one at 10
Downing Street.
In comparison, Adolf Hit-

In comparison, Adolf Hitler's paintings, painted mostly before he became the Führer, sell for up to £3,000. While Hitler's failures as a struggling artist in Vienna drove him into politics. Churchill took to painting to relax from political life. Where Hitler's works are grim and workmanlike. Churchill's display an exuberant escapism. He said: "I rejoice in the highest lights and brightest colours."

Churchill was introduced to painting in 1915 by his sisterin-law, Lady Gwendeline Churchill. He had just been forced to resign as First Lord of the Admiralty after the Dardanelles disaster. He was 40 and his years in the political wilderness were just beginning. "Painting," he wrote, "came to my rescue in a most trying time."

When he did not take to Lady Gwendeline's water-colours, she suggested he try oils instead. The thicker paint was more to his taste. Over the next few years, he was rarely



Lady Gwendeline Churchill at Hoe Farm, circa 1920

without his canvas and pallet when he went to stay with

friends in the country.

He also liked painting in the
South of France, Morocco and
Egypt. He was not fussy about
subject matter, painting landscapes and portraits, still lives
and buildings. He became
close friends with such leading

British painters as Sir John Lavery, Sir William Nicholson and Walter Richard Sickert.

Churchill's canvasses could be both robust and sensitive. Most would agree with the verdict of Harry Truman, who, when asked what he thought of an exhibition of 35 Churchill works in Kansas "a joyride For this ous Church to Soames to Churchill works in Kansas told me the

City in 1958, said: "Damn good. At least you can tell what they are and that is more than you can say for a lot of these

Churchill had time to paint just one picture during the war but, after the Casablanca conference, he and President Roosevelt found themselves with a day to spare in Morocco. At Churchill's suggestion, the two men stayed overnight in Marrakesh to catch dawn over the Atlas mountains. Churchill painted the scene and sent it to Roosevelt who hung it in the White House.

After the 1945 general election, Churchill took up his brushes with renewed energy and continued to paint into his eighties, always wearing one of the special Austin Reed designed Siren Suits he wore as wartime Prime Minister. He described his painting as "a joyride in a paint box".

"a joyride in a paint box".

For this exhibition, the various Churchill clans, from the Soames to the Sandys, have contributed works. "Lady Soames, Churchill's daughter, told me they have all stripped



Grim and workmanlike: Hitler's painting of Ypres, 1916

their walls," Mr Coombs said.
"I am sure that he would have been delighted to know that his pictures are now fetching

"He did not give many of them away when he was alive as he did not think they were worth much and he liked to monitor his own progress." Visitors to January's exhibition will, however, probably share the thought expressed by the President of the Royal Academy when 62 Churchill paintings were shown in 1959. He told the artist: "I can't think how you have found time in your life to do anything else but paint."

Sainsbury's range of Christmas plants and flowers keeps on growing.

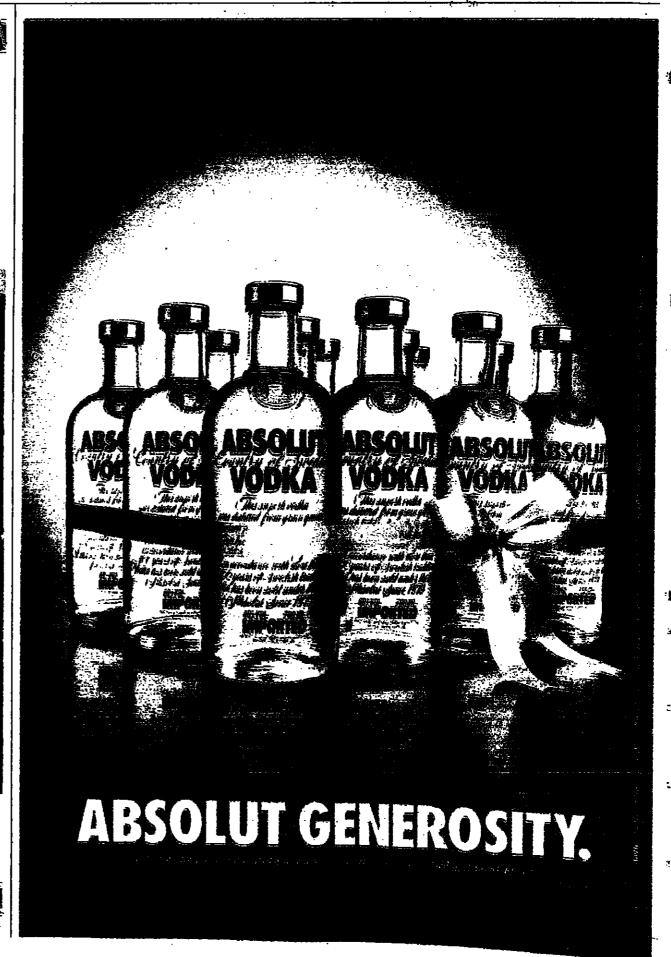


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### How the new boss will ginger up Virgin

Carol Midgley and Kathryn **Knight** review

Chris Evans's

record as an employer

BRITAIN now has a media tycoon who speaks directly to his customers nationwide over breakfast each day, sharing his thoughts on the state of the nation. It sounds like a joke character from a movie. In fact, it is Chris Evans.

Insiders at Virgin Radio say that the atmosphere has been one of unbridled celebration since it was revealed this week that their maverick breakfast DJ had bought the station, beating the corporate Capital
Radio. Evans declared that he
knew nothing of the business
side, and would be "leaving it to the experts".

But former employees say that staff may see another side to the millionaire's creative genius. Evans, 31, may be revered for his wacky humour in a career that spans Man-chester's Piccadilly Radio, Radio I, and Channel 4's The Big Breakfast and TFI Friday. but he has been feared for ruthlessness as an employer. In an exclusive interview with Arena magazine out next week, he confesses to tyranny in the past but claims to have mellowed since the days when, it is claimed, Big Breakfast staff would spit at his dressing room door because he was so egotistic.

"There are ways of handling certain situations that I could have handled better," he says. 'I admit that, but now I've learnt from those mistakes. I don't do that any more."

Twenty-four hours after the Virgin deal was announced, Evans gave the warning that he would not be entirely hands-off as boss. He said David Campbell, his chief executive, would handle the business side, but: "I can always overrule him. I intend

to if I think he is wrong." A perfectionist, Evans demands the high standards from others that he imposes on himself. One who worked on The Big Breakfast with him for nine months said: "He's this knack of making you feel really privileged to be in the golden circle. But if you irritate him - which you can do very easily - then he can turn on you ferociously."

Even by Evans's standards, last week was eventful. Signing a three-year contract with Channel 4 for £30 million gave him much of the collateral he needed to buy 75 per cent of Virgin Radio for £80 million. His Ginger group of companies also makes TFI Friday The Danny Baker Show for Talk Radio, and will



On Channel 4's TFI Friday. Evans says: "This is one of the best jobs in the world. I think that every day"

be developing a golf show for Channel 4 and a soap. Foreign sales of the format for his game show, Don't Forget Your Toothbrush, are estimated to have made £3 million.

Evans tells Arena that pressure has often made him overreact. When you've got these pressures on you, you're to make a takes. And who doesn't shout at people? I hardly shout at people any more, but I still would if I had to."

Maria Costello, his PA at Radio 1; was sacked last year after incurring Evans's wrath when arrangements - for which she was not responsible - went wrong. The following Monday, Evans and his team ioked about her departure live on radio. She said: "I don't think Chris has any idea what he puts people through."

Holly Samos, a researcher

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Radio 1 show, was quizzed about her love life, leading to a flood of complaints. Another researcher, Justin Bradley, was subjected to on-air humiliation when Evans said Bradley had fiddled expenses, and read out an apology.

A source at Ginger Producenergy. In that sense, he is an amazing boss. There is no room for apathy. But if you tions, then you get a very bad

Evans tells Arena: "The people at Ginger all love the fact that they work in the media. If they don't, I give them a kick up the arse and I say 'Look, do you appreciate this is one of the best jobs in now, I think that every day, so surely you should think it



Early days: in leaner times, Evans worked as a Tarzan-o-Gram in Warrington, Cheshire



Starting out: from his career at Piccadilly Radio





the BBC on his first day as presenter of the Radio i morning show

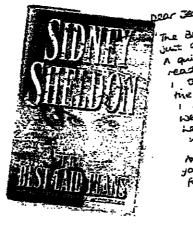


Co-presenting: on Channel 4's The Big Breakfast with Gaby Roslin. Evans admits to past tyranny

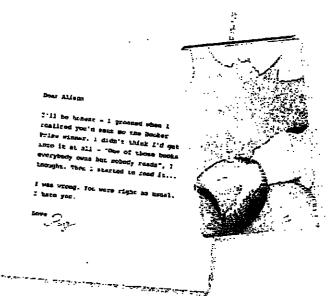


Foot in the door, with Richard Branson on his first morning as breakfast presenter for Virgin Radio

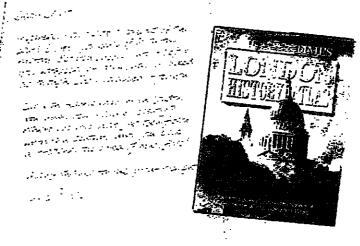
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## Stop moaning, Tories tell Labour 'sisters'

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

FEMALE Labour MPs who complain about sexism in the Commons are naive spoilt and over-sensitive, according to their Tory counterparts.

Several Labour women told the makers of Westminster Women, to be screened next month on ITV, that they had to suffer cruel taunts from male MPs. Jane Griffiths, who took Reading East for Labour on May I. claims in the programme that two Conservatives hold their hands in front of them "as if they are weighing melons" while women are addressing the House. There was "mocking laughter" during her maiden speech.

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary. says that some male MPs giggle when the House is discussing issues related to women's health. Maria Eagle, the newly elected Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, says the behaviour of Tory men can be "shocking" - adding that she will give as good as she gets. But Ann Widdecombe, Tory MP for Maidstone and The

Weald, said the Labour women were imagining things. "I think this is just the whingeing feminism of the Nineties instead of the go-getting feminism of the Seventies.

There is absolutely no sexism whatever in the House of Commons. I have never noticed any on either side. It is almost as if some women MPs coming in want to make a cause out of it. They expect it and look for it and find it

Widdecombe: said there

where it isn't," the former Prisons Minister said.

Edwina Currie, who lost Derbyshire South for the Conservatives on May 1, acknowledged that men could behave badly in the chamber but accused Labour women of being "limp" and "naive".

What the men are trying to do is to put them down. They will use any means necessary. to which my reaction is -- you have to fight back. What you don't do is burst into tears or appeal for help to the Speaker. because that rises to the bait." Labour men were as guilty as the Tories, she said, but their sexist behaviour might not be seen by women speaking from Labour's side of the House. Mrs Currie's advice was to hit back "below the belt".

Angela Browning, Conservarive MP for Tiverton and Honiton, claimed that many Labour women had had things relatively easy before entering the Commons. "It's a result of having people from who weren't prepared for parput up and shut up."

Mrs Browning, formerly a junior Agriculture Minister, conceded that some of the heckling from men was aimed specifically at women. "But it can be a bit of a hothouse in there and I don't think that women do their cause any good if they are trying to differentiate. I have heard some men get barracked quite nastily in the House."

Caroline Spelman, Tory MP for Meriden, said Labour women had found it harder to make their mark because there were so many of them. Cheryl Gillan, Tory MP for

Chesham and Amersham. said that the Labour women were "rather like spoilt children if they expect not to get the same treatment as other colleagues get". Male MPs also had to endure heckling about their physical appearance, she said; Ian McCartney, the short and rather round Trade and Industry Minister, faced shouts of "teletubby" whenever he rose to the Dispatch Box.



Paul Yaxon of the otter

#### A bright future for otters at risk in Scotland

TOWERING over the small island of Eilean Ban is the Skye Bridge, linking the mainland to the Isle of Skye. The island was used as a prop for the building of the bridge. This brush with advanced engineering was, however, a blip in the history of an island



nurse them back to health

#### THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

that was once home to Gavin Maxwell, author of Ring of Bright Water, and will now come a wildlife sanctuary for otters, thanks to the work of the local community and the Born Free Foundation.

Since the advent of the car, the otters of the Highlands

and Islands have had a hard time. Hundreds are run over each year. It is the work of the International Otter Survival Fund to rescue injured otters and other native wildlife and

before returning them to the Last year, a baby otter was found on the Isle of Lewis. His mother had been run over soon after giving birth. Lewis. as he was named, was taken to the fund's centre on Skye.

> itself at first, and then in a large, enclosed croft run by the centre, where human contact is kept to a vigilant minimum and animals can live as they would in the wild. After about a year, Lewis was released into the wild for good. Had he not been found,

He was reared in the centre

have died soon after his The Born Free Foundation, one of the two charities nominated by The Times this year

he would almost certainly

the work of the fund and will be working with it again on the Eilean Ban project.

Preventive measures imple mented by the fund include the imminent installation of reflectors on roads at the main otter crossing points. They are also looking for potential sponsors for a fully fitted ambulance to rescue injured

Money is required for the development of Eilean Ban as a sanctuary for the native wildlife. The Scottish Office has already made the buildings on the island windproof

and watertight. The Born Free Foundation's Brightwater Appeal complements work being done by the residents of Skye and fishing villages on the mainland, such as Kyle to develop Eilean Ban. There are further plans to build an interpretive centre on Skye to explain the history of the island and its

Caroline Robson, who runs the foundation's otter projects says: "Eilean Ban is a great opportunity for the wildlife of the area, otters and every for its Christmas appeal, is a the area, otters and major financial supporter of other sort of animal."



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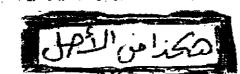
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# Borgia's fountains flow with poison

Water made <u>Tivoli great</u> and now water could destroy

it, reports

Richard Owen

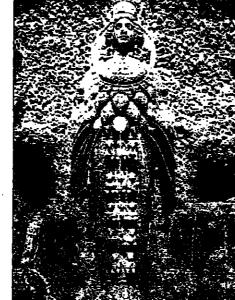
THE spectacular water gardens of the 16th-century Villa D'Este — one of the sights of Italy since the days of the Grand Tour — are threatened with closure because the villa's famous fountains, ponds and tumbling cascades are infected with salmonella bacteria. Local health officials say the "poisoned fountains" pose a danger to visitors through "aerial contamination".

Tivoli, perched on a hill 20 miles from Rome, has been a favoured resort for the rich and powerful since ancient Roman times, when it was admired — ironically — for its "healthy properties". Tourists still flock to the ruins of Hadrian's Villa at the foot of the hill, built by the Emperor Hadrian in the 2nd century AD. But for many the glory of Tivoli is the Villa D'Este, built by Pirro Ligorio for Cardinal Ippolito D'Este, the son of Lucrezia Borgia, in 1555.

Inspired by formal gardens at Hadrian's Villa (which he had helped to excavate). Ligorio channeled the waterfalls which pour down the side of the hill at Tivoli into an artfully arranged symmetrical garden of grottoes, statues, ristas and ornate monumental fountains, designed as a breathtaking approach to the

John Evelyn, the 17th-century diarist, was enchanted (and irritated) by ingenious fountains designed to imitate organ sounds or the call of birds, and by "surprise fountains" which drenched unwary visitors when they sat or stepped on hidden mechanisms. But the mechanisms have rusted





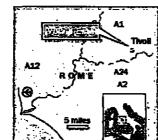
In the garden's heyday the fountains imitated birdsong and musical instruments

or disintegrated, the mosscovered fountains no longer play music, and the classical and mythical sculptures have worn away. Above all, newly erected notices at the entrance warn visitors that "for health reasons the water pressure in the fountains has been reduced".

The ponds and cascades are cordoned off by metal crash barriers, and signs advise tourists not to "drink, wash in, or come into contact with the water in any way whatever".

Local officials say the water contamination first came to light as long ago as 1990 when they discovered, after a campaign by environmentalists. that the waters taken from a bend in the local river, which feeds the villa garden, were polluted. Although Tivoli advertises itself as a "City of Art", its hinterland is a landscape of travertine marble quarries and light industry. The limestone riverbed, one health official said, "concealed poisons no less treacherous than those used by Lucrezia Borgia to deal with her rivals".

The discovery led to a series of fruitless investigations by



council, which allowed the villa and gardens to fall into disrepair. Tourist officials say there were nearly a million visitors a year to Tivoli in the 1980s, but the figure has dropped steadily.

This month the Ministry of

Health stepped in, telling Tivoli officials that its analysis of the Villa D'Este waters had revealed the presence of salmonella bacteria. The once elegant villa, once a magnet for artists, composers and high society, is also in a state of decay, its empty, echoing and unheated frescoed rooms disfigured by mould, damp patches and encrustations of salt and minerals.

Water shaped the Villa

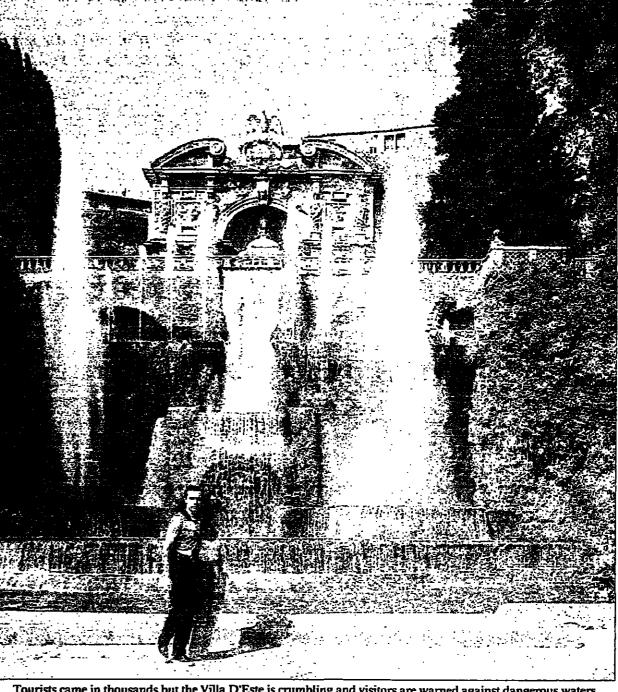
D'Este and formed its lifeblood, but is now killing it," said Il Messaggero, the Rome daily. The garden is full of

germ-ridden vapour." Pio Baldi, the recently appointed Superintendent of Arts for Tivoli, said a radical restoration programme was needed at an estimated cost of £20 million and he appealed for government help.

Giovanni Hermanin, the

former Green activist who first drew attention to the contamination and is now the chief regional environmental officer, said he believed he had traced the problem to waste outlets and drains emptying into the river from the local hospital. "The Villa D'Este is a monument of universal importance, and it is intolerable that this should have dragged on to the point of disaster.' Signor Hermanin said.

Sandro Gallotti, the recently elected mayor, said he was determined to restore the villa to its former glory, with the water purified, night-time illumination reinstalled, and a new visitors' cafe with indoor waterfalls "echoing the cascades in the gardens outside".



Tourists came in thousands but the Villa D'Este is crumbling and visitors are warned against dangerous waters

Ithough the Villa D'Este's famous fountains and waterfalls have been railed off, Dr Geoffrey Ridgeway, consultant bacteriologist at University College Hospital, London, would not be worried about inhaling the spray from its contaminated water, unless he were suffering from respiratory problems, was immunocompromised or was otherwise debilitated. Dr Ridgeway would, of course.

enjoying his next sandwich. Only a few years ago was it realised that invisible, or near invisible, spray

be careful to wash his hands before

#### WATER PERILS

thrown up by fountains, or splashing from cascades, could result in the inhalation of disease-spreading organisms. The water may be contaminated at source, as in the Villa D'Este. or later in the fountain's cisterns by rats, or, in the case of salmonelia, by birds.

In health clubs the communal whirlpool has been proved to be a source of nfections after spray inhalation. Dr Ridgeway says it was demonstrated that many of these infections were as a

result of water being splashed off parts of the body regularly contaminated by organisms of the *Pseudomonas* group of hacteria.

Pseudomonas, which is the cause of secondary infections in hospital wounds and hence might have contaminated the Villa D'Este's water supply. can be found living harmlessly on the skin in the armpits and around the anogenital areas. Pseudomonal infections are more easily spread by spray than salmonella.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Christiane Amanpour and Jamie Rubin, who have become Washington's latest "power couple"

#### Romance brings echo of Camelot to news coverage

HE IS the tall, dark, handsome diplomat who is the voice of the American Government. She is a hard-bitten war reporter who is America's best known foreign correspondent. They share a pas-sion for Bosnia. They fall in love. No. it is not the script of Harrison Ford's planned film on Bosnia (în which Ford will play a gun-running mercenary who falls for a Bosnian woman). It is the real-life romance of Jamie Rubin, State Department spokesman, and Christiane Amanpour. CNN's star cor-respondent — who have become America's newest "power counte".

There is something Kennedyesque about the pairing. a hint of the heady days of

went to school with John F. Kennedy Jr. and Jamie has the same rugged good looks as the late President's son.

Unlike JFK Jr and his wife. Carolyn Bessette, however, these two are not just farmous for being farmous. Neither needs much publicity. The globe-trotting Christiane, now based in London when she is not in Iran or Bosnia or being detained by the Taleban in Afghanistan, has enough face-time on CNN to sate even the most insecure

Jamie, known for his snarting delivery of US foreign policy at the State Department's midday briefings in Washington, is one of the most quoted men alive.

### Plastic wife turns into Catwoman

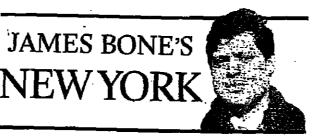
REVELATIONS about the plastic surgery inflicted JAMES BONE'S on the art-dealing Wildenstein clan have raised eyebrows and even put some noses out of joint. Alec Wildenstein, the

son of the legendary "Monsieur Daniel", who owns art galleries, race-horses and property around the world, said this week that his estranged wife. Jocelyne, went under the knife because she wanted to "look

like a cat". Describing her as obsessed, he said she was "constantly remodelling, like you remodel an apartment". Jocelyn, whose unnaturally sculpted face has earned her the sobriquet "The Bride of Wildenstein", countered by disclosing that she had compiled a list of all the cosmetic surgery performed on family members over the years and "I am not in the big number as far as operations".

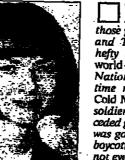
Caught in the crossfire is the family's cosmetic surgeon, Dr

It is time for the ladies-who-lunch to get the mink out of storage, and for anti-fur protesters to hit the streets. Two young women, wearing animal ears and tails and little else, took their protest to the ice-rink at the Rockefeller Centre. Protesters have been daubing buildings in red paint and the home of Anna Wintour, right, had red paw prints daubed up the front steps. Anti-fur campaigners evidently blame the British editor of Vogue for the idea that "Eur is Banks for the idea that "Fur is Back".



Richard Coburn, a specialist with offices just off the stretch of upper Park Avenue known as customer because she kept com-Plastic Surgery Row". Apparently red-faced, Dr Coburn ducked my. calls. So I consulted an eminent colleague about Mrs Wildenstein's facial work. Dr Victor Rosenberg, the director of cosmetic surgery at New York University Downtown Hospital, estimated that Jocelyne must have had hours of surgery over the years to achieve her exotic

The way I see it she has had a few face-lifts, she has had her lips made larger, she has something done to her eyes where they have become more almond-shaped and slant up and out, a forehead lift, and she may have cheek-



There has been much grumbling about the neglect of those greats of fiction. Don DeLillo and Thomas Pynchon, and their hefty new masterpieces — Under-world and Mason and Dixon. The National Book Award went to first-time novelist Charles Frazier for Cold Mountain, about a Civil War soldier limping home. DeLillo conceded graciously that Frazier's book was good. But Pynchon's publisher boycotted the event as his man was not even shortlisted.

plastic," he said.

weapon on her.



Jocelyne Wildenstein: "not a big number"

#### Streets ahead in names of shame

NEW YORK has always been a city-state with its own foreign policy. Any government that angers one of its many ethnic communities is liable to find an embarrassing street name outside its consulate.

The Soviet Union had a road named after Natan Sharansky: the apartheid-era South Africans had "Nelson and Winnie Mandela Corner" (surely time that one was renamed); even the British suffered a junction honouring Joe Doherty, the IRA fugitive.

Nigeria's military regime recently went to court when the city council renamed a road outside its gleaming new consulate "Kudirat Abiola Corner" after the murdered wife of the jailed Chief Moshood Abiola, widely believed to have won the 1993 presidential election. It is probably over-optimistic for Nigeria to think it can get the better of New York. As they say, all politics is local.

In response to viewers' complaints about crimeridden newscasts, a television station has started a nightly "Good News" slot. The ques-tion is whether that makes everything else "Bad News". Probably. News, as John Maynard Keynes said of surprises, is invariably bad.

A "factoid": 46 per cent of US parents say their children prefer their comput-ers to their friends.

#### Call to curb wife of Netanyahu

Jerusalem: Israeli opposition politicians vowed yesterday to take action against Sara Net-anyahu, the Prime Minister's wife, after an eight-page ex-pose of her allegedly unbal-anced behaviour appeared in Yediot Aharanot, the biggestselling Tel Aviv newspaper (Christopher Walker writes).

Ophir Pines, a Labour backbencher, said he would submit an urgent motion to the Knesset agenda stating: "The effect of Mrs Netanyahu's extraordinary behaviour on her husband's functioning should be checked." Another Labour MP, Ephraim Oshaya, proposed the job of Prime Minister's wife should be given official status with defined privileges, so that "we avoid such scandals",

The article listed claims mostly by unnamed officials and witnesses, about how the 39-year-old former El Al hostess and third wife of Binyamin Netanyahu had allegedly abused her position and tormented subordinates.

#### Woman jailed for Cosby blackmail

By James Bone

THE woman who tried to blackmail "America's Dad" by claiming to be his illegitimate daughter was sentenced to a stiff jail term yesterday. Autumn Jackson; 23, will serve 26 months for trying to extort \$40 million (£24 million) from Bill Cosby, the black billionaire situation comedy star who played the patriarch of the Huxtable family in The Cosby Show on television.

Yesterday's sentencing in Manhattan brought an end to a horrific year for Mr Cosby, whose son, Ennis, was murdered in January as he changed a tyre in Los Angeles. The comedian, who is married, admitted that he had once had a "rendezvous" with Ms Jackson's mother, but denied that Ms Jackson was his child. Ms Jackson and two accomplices threatened to leak the story to a tabloid magazine

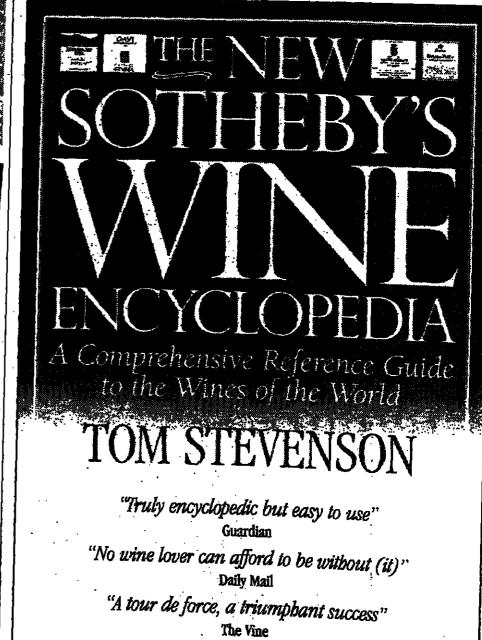
if he did not pay her off. In a letter asking for leniency. Ms Jackson's lawyer had told the judge that his client

was "a far cry from the typical back-alley extortionist". He wrote: "She was born into the secret that would later contribute to her misconduct. As far as she knew, the 'secret' was true, and the truth of that secret gave her some right to support from Mr Cosby." He added: "She now realises, painfully, that she will never have any relationship with the famous man she has always believed to be her father."

Prosecutors said Miss Jack-son saw Mr Cosby in the same way that robbers saw banks. They said \$40 million was far above any entitlement she could have had, even if she

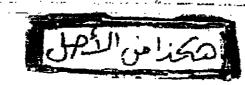
Ms Jackson, who has been living with her grandmother in California, recently married\* Anthony Williams, the man who told the authorities about the extortion plot. She rejected an offer by the man who claims to be her biological father to attend the court to deliver a plea for leniency.





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### James Bond falls into the clutches of marketing men's \$100m plot



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Agent for change: Brosnan and BMW

HIS martinis are still made as they should be, but the new 007 wears the wrong watch, drives the wrong car and has lent his serial number to a lipstick company.

A week before the release of the 18th Bond film, Mr Bond is in the midst of an unprecedented mar-keting blitz paid for to the tune of \$100 million by — there is no other way of putting it — his

To publicise Tomorrow Never Dies, the world's top secret agent has lent his name to more gadgets than Tiger Woods. In doing so he

has strayed recklessly from lan Fleming's legendary blueprint, and lost a good deal of his Englishness. His suits are now from Milan, not Savile Row. His cars and motorcycles are from Germany, not Aston Martin. His watch is still Swiss, but hardly the Rolex that saved his life in From

Russia With Love.
Worst of all, the most useful gadget given him by the venerable Q is now a Swedish-sounding cellphone that Ian Fleming would barely recognise as a toy.

The branding of Bond has been driven by his studio's bottom line. MGM, whose survival largely

depends on the Bond franchise, has converted the spy's unrivalled sex-appeal into licensing, product placement and advertising deals that more than quadruple its own \$25 million marketing budget for the new Bond film.

The trend began in Goldeneye. Pierce Brosnan's first outing as 007, in which he was seen fleetingly in a new BMW sports car. That brought the company 10,000 advance orders worth some \$300 million (£190 million). This time, in return for the right to put Mr Brosnan behind the wheel of its most expensive saloon, the company gave the production ten

promised a multi-million-dollar advertising campaign to promote the film as well as its vehicles.

There is also a Bond beer, credit card and vodka, all seen in the film and all featuring the film in their own TV commercials. Hitherto such joint ventures were the preserve of children's films and fast food chains. Mr Bond has apparently proved the perfect equivalent for grown-ups, though so far his official make-up line is worn only by his girlfriends.

Simon Barnes, page 22 Bond cars, Go, page 47



Old style: James Bond's Aston Martin

### Spielberg saga fails to impress the critics

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

STEVEN SPIELBERG'S America apologise?" Yet inopened in America last night after a month of legal controversy to which the director must now add another headache. Critics agree that al-though undeniably important.

Amistad is not the film it might have been.

The 22-hour saga tells the true story of a slave ship mutiny that took place off Cuba a century and a half ago. Besides being Mr Spielberg's attempt to pull off a "black Schindler's List", it is the first attempt by a major Hollywood director to grapple with the issue that has been called "a hole in America's soul".

Amistad, named after the ship on which it is set has proved a lightning rod for the powerful emotions that still dominate discussion of slavery in America. Tears reportedly flowed on set as black actors were shackled for filming aboard mock-ups of the slave ship. Last week, the unknown West African actor

stead of opening to heady talk of Oscars, the film has been overshadowed by a \$10 million (£6.1 million) plagiarism lawsuit and a bitter war of words between some of Hollywood's costliest attorneys. Both come at the worst possible time for Dreamworks SKG, the beleaguered young studio co-founded by Mr

The dispute began when Barbara Chase-Riboud, a former friend of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, accused Mr Spielberg and his scriptwriter of stealing large parts of her 1989 novel on the mutiny, Echo of Lions. Last week, a judge handed Dreamworks a temporary victory, allowing distribution of the film without a credit for Ms Chase-Riboud. Then came the reviews.

With showy cinematography that fails to compensate some oddly flat dialogue, the \$75 million Amistad falls between the high seriousness of Schindler's List and the



Matthew McConaughey in Amistad. One reviewer said what the film really needed was an Oskar Schindler

working", the Los Angeles Times declared. "There's been leakage from the no-brainers to the quality stuff." The New York Times complained that Amistad has everything ex-cept an Oskar Schindler"—a central character through whom to grasp the actrocity of slavery. Instead it has Marthew McConaughey, a youth-ful heart-throb, who is mediocre at best in the vital role of a white lawyer who -

takes up the Africans' cause.

"We've got real

Quincy Adams who argued the slaves' case in the US Supreme Court, and Djimon Hounsou, a former fashion model originally from Benin. As the mutineers' leader he manages to humanise a harrowing depiction of the trans-

atlantic "middle passage". The two characters meet in one of the film's best scenes yet even here Mr Spielberg is in trouble. Their relationship is one of 42 striking similar

denies reading Echo of Lions even though Kennedy Onassis sent a proof version to his office in the late 1980s.

In an interview with The Times during production, the director admitted knowing "a bit about the Amistad" before being approached by its credited producer, Debbie Allen. But he added: "It took [Ms Allen's] energy and charisma

to get my attention and look her in the eye and say ... 'I'd like to try to tell that story with you'." Mr Spielberg broke his silence on the lawsuit in an affidavit pleading for the film's release not to be blocked. That would have been "a tragedy for our com-pany, but I believe it would -also be a serious loss to the American public", he said.

#### Internet ruling deals blow to Gates empire

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MICROSOFT, the world's most powerful software company, received an unexpected blow yesterday when a federal judge ordered that it must sell its Internet browser software separately from its Windows operating system to prevent it building a monopoly of Web access programmes.

The temporary injunction by the Washington judge in the Justice Department's antitrust suit against Bill Gates's company may jeopardise the release of Windows 98, scheduled for spring. On a visit to Beijing, Mr Gates would not comment on the ruling but insisted that Microsoft's dominance was based on technical superiority.

Microsoft, which promised that its Internet browser would be an integral part of Windows 98, will now be banned from compelling computer makers to install the software along with Windows 98. Versions of Windows are installed as the operating system for almost all new personal computers worldwide. Microsoft has imposed this "bundling" agreement on computer makers for about

two years. Stock market analysts said vesterday that, on its own, the ruling was not a serious threat to Microsoft, because computer makers could still voluntarily sell the browser along with Windows. But, if reinforced by later judgments, it might prove a real impedi-ment. The judgment, which will be re-examined next year in the light of more evidence, is intended to be a holding measure to prevent Microsoft clinching a monopoly of the browser market before the final judgment is delivered.

Microsoft, after a decade of astounding success, was slow to see the Internet's potential and is accused of using its software dominance to claw its way into a monopoly position in Internet technology.

In its suit, filed on October 20, the Justice Department alleged that Microsoft's tactics in marketing its browser vio-lated a 1995 antitrust settlement. It asked for a fine of \$1 million (£625,000) a day if the company failed to change its policy.

Microsoft executives called Thursday's ruling "a mixed that Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson had not ruled the company to be in contempt of the 1995 settlement.

Joel Klein, the Assistant Attorney-General, said after the ruling: "Starting tomorrow, choice will be restored to

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HEAR A DEMO AND HEAR THE DIFFERENCE

# Carlos plays to the gallery at murder trial

THE trial of Carlos the Jackal opened in Paris yesterday with a passionate and sometimes baffling defence speech from the accused terrorist mastermind, in which he described himself as "a professional revolutionary in the old Leninist tradition".

The Venezuelan-born Carlos, 48, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, is on trial for the murders of two French secret service agents and their Lebanese informer in 1975, for which he was convicted in absentia in 1992.

In his first public appearance, the flamboyant self-styled revolutionary took every opportunity to play to the gallery, peering over his gold-rimmed spectacles, wagging his finger at the court and grinning at the packed public benches. In a long, occasionally comic and often barely comprehensible declaration delivered in accented French. Carlos challenged the jurisdiction of the French court and accused civil plaintiffs of being manipulated by Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

Asked to state his address, the man linked to many of the worst terrorist attacks of the Cold War replied: "The world is my domain. My last address was in Khartoum, Sudan," Claiming that he had been The Jackal

opens his own defence in Paris, watched by Ben

Macintyre

illegally kidnapped by French agents in Sudan in 1994, he said: "I deny the right of French judges to try me because I am in France illegally." Wearing a beige safari jacket and silk cravat - and looking more like a satisfied cat than a feared jackal -Carlos appeared almost impossibly relaxed for a man facing life imprisonment if convicted.

"The understandable anguish of the victims families is being manipulated ... they are being fooled by the actions of Mossad with the connivance of the French police authorities," the pro-Palestinian former guerrilla proclaimed. Carlos went on to describe SOS Attentats, the association for terrorism victims representing civil plaintiffs in the case, as a "Zionist, revisionist, racist" organisation. After three years spent

in solitary confinement. Carlos was clearly enjoying the opportunity to declaim before a captive audience, and his relish in the sound of his own voice reached the point where the judge, Yves Corneloup, first instructed him to speak more slowly and then admonished him for criticising prosecution lawyers, saying he must respect the solemnity of the court.

Carlos seemed anything but solemn during jury selection. In line with his reputation as a terrorist Don Juan, he turned a dazzling smile on every potential female juror, and appeared to reject those who declined to catch his eye, prompting laughter in court. The accused killer, describing himself as "a militant for the Palestinian cause". has insisted on acting as his own chief defence lawyer, despite his limited grasp of French. At one point in the proceed-ings, Carlos's languid pose became too much for the

judge, who told him not to put his feet on a chair in the dock. Prosecution lawyers say the case against Carlos is watertight, since police discovered his fingerprints on the murder weapon and the accused admitted to the murders in a

newspaper interview. The

trial is expected to last a week.



Carlos the Jackal in a photograph French police found in the murder flat in 1975

### Radio says tired Yeltsin suffered 'severe brain spasm'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE Kremlin was last night at pains to dismiss fresh reports suggesting that President Yeltsin's disappearance from public view was due to more serious medical complications than simply a cold.

As Russia celebrated Constitution Day, and Mr Yeltsin's place as head of state was taken by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister. a Moscow radio station reported that the Russian leader had suffered "a severe brain spasm" caused by exhaustion. "Boris Yeltsin had a severe spasm of the blood vessels in the brain, linked to sharp weather fluctuations and his general fatigue and overwork," said a report on Ekho Moskvy, the capital's best radio news station.

The report, quoting well-placed medical sources, added that he was recuperating and that his condition was improving. Medical experts said that "brain spasms" were linked to migraines and often affected elderly people who had high blood pressure.

They are not connected to strokes or blood clots.

The claims could help to explain why the Kremlin leader looked so confused and behaved in such an erratic manner during his visit to Sweden last week, the latest in a series of long and exhausting trips made by the 66-year-old leader.

Added to separate reports that the latest illness is related to Mr Yeltsin's previous heart problems, there is a growing air of crisis around the Kremlin, which in the past has routinely covered up the real state of

health of the country's leaders. A Kremlin spokesman denied the latest allegations and insisted that the Russian leader's temperature was normal, that Mr Yeltsin had done some paperwork and was aiready recovering from a simple bout of

'If his temperature remains stable. he may resume walks in the fresh air on Saturday and Sunday," said a Kremlin statement released after doctors had examined him at the presidential sanatorium in Barvikha, outside Moscow. The

the fact that Mr Yeltsin's plans to take part in tomorrow's local government elections in Moscow have had to be curtailed. Instead of travelling a short distance to the local polling station, he will cast his ballot in a mobile voting box brought to his residence

In the public's eyes, the only way that rumours can be dispelled is by the appearance of President Yeltsin in public or on television to provide concrete proof that he is making a

#### **WORLD IN BRIEF**

#### Filipino MP gets life for child rape

Manila: A court has sentenced Romeo Jalosjos, a Philimpines congressman, to life imprisonment for raping an 11-year-old girl (Abby Tan writes). The opposition politician was found guilty of two counts of rape and six counts of indecent assault against a minor. The judge dismissed six other charges of sexual assault Jalosjos, 57, will serve a mandatory 40 years.

Jalosjos stood motionless in court wearing dark glasses as the clerk read the verdict, which was greeted by wild cheering and applause from women's groups lobbying for the protection of women and children. Prosecution lawyers said: The verdict was a vindication of all sexually abused children in the Philippines. The Jalosjos trial was a test case for the Philippines' tough new laws on sex crimes.

#### **Ex-bishop condemns Pope**

Vienna: In a letter to senior Roman Catholic officials Reinhold Stecher. 75, a former Bishop of Innsbruck in Austria, accused the Vatican of being preoccupied with power and suggested the Pope was straying from Christ's teachings. The letter, obtained by Austrian state television ORF, also attacked the way the hierarchy looked down on church members and its attitude to priests who married. "Is it not a bigger sin not to forgive than to break the vow of celibacy?" the former bishop wrote. (Reuters)

#### Award for nanny's judge

East Bridgewater, Massachusetts: Judge Hiller Zobel, who presided over the trial of Louise Woodward, the British an pair, has been recognised for courage in deciding to set the 19-year-old free. Judge Zobel, who reduced Miss Woodward's second-degree murder conviction to involuntary manslaughter, received the seventh annual Brass Gavel Award from the Plymouth County Bar Association. "Judging is a funny business," he said. (AP)

#### More avian flu cases feared

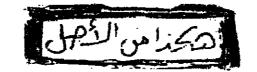
Hong Kong: Three more suspected cases of an avian flu that killed two people in Hong Kong were reported, bringing the number of confirmed or suspected cases of the rare virus to seven. Three hospitals in different parts of the territory reported a suspected case of the influenza H5N1 infection, but none has been confirmed by laboratory tests. One of the suspected victims is in a critical condition. (AP)

#### Levitating train sets record



Tokyo: The Japanese maglev (magnetically levitated) train that set world speed records yesterday by reaching 53l kph (329.96 mph) in both manned and unmanned runs, according to the train's developer. The runs, in Yamanashi Prefecture, west of Tokyo, broke the previous unmanned record of 517 kph and manned record of 503 kph. (AP)





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### Failed fortunes force Thai economy drive

THAI matrons are leasing out their Gucci handbags and Versace outfits and shoes for the evening as formerly prosperous Thais learn to live with the spectacular bursting of the country's bubble economy.

As its currency, the baht, sank to new lows yesterday. the new Prime Minister, Chuan Leekpai, spoke of the possibility of "millions of newly unemployed people". The suicide rate is up.

prostitution, which had been declining, is growing again. and crime has also increased. Yet some are coping. One cheery, laid-off broker who used to handle stock and property worth millions has opened a sandwich stall in a hospital, while a former real estate dealer in a property market where luxury flats and villas stand empty has started

A former banker is selling a line of T-shirts carrying the meiancholy message: "I used

The Thai tiger economy grew 8 per cent a year for a James Pringle sees how Bangkok

is adapting to the harsh and novel realities of boom-to-bust

Thais thought the good times would go on for ever. A popular book called Thai-

land's Boom, published last year, summed up the former "Suddenly Thailand has become one of the world's most

thuses the blurb on the cover. "How did it happen? Where is it heading?" The answer is nowhere but down. "You just don't know where the bottom is," said one

dynamic economies." en-

financial analyst. Asia's economic meltdown started here. The flotation of the Thai currency in July set off a chain reaction from Bangkok to Jakarta to Seoul, and required a \$17 billion (£10 billion) emergency bail-out from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in return for fiscal austerity programmes.

Prices are rising for those earning baht salaries — but there are bargains for those with hard currency — com-panies are closing and hun-dreds of thousands of people are already out of work. Many are heading home to villages where basic food and goods

Some analysts say the Thai economy will not hit bottom until 1999. Senior Western diplomats say that they have been told by government ministers that unrest cannot be

are cheap.

"Confidence and optimism are out, and uncertainty and gloom are in," said the Prime Minister, who came to power on November 15 after the collapse of the previous

Mr Chuan's new Government, an eight-party coalition.

is considered good news after its two incompetent predecesthe post before, is highly rated as thoughtful and honest, if in the past slow to act.

But diplomats say Mr Chuan did act decisively this week when, taking a hard line on troubled financial institutions which overextended themselves in loans, notably for property, he said only two of 58 finance firms suspended in mid-year would be allowed to reopen. Analysts had expected up to seven would esume business.

The closures have thrown 6,000 young executives out on the street this week alone, and many are trying to sell their mobile telephones. Thailand was the world's largest consumer of 12-year-old premium Scotch, but now a cheap local whisky called 'Black Cat' is popular.

Young Thais coming out of the world. But a Mercedes schools and colleges will not be able to find good jobs," said dealer here says that sales a European envoy. "At the same time, the whole support industry for the chattering Mercedes dealer, has man-

A Buddhist monk examines a bargain Mercedes at the weekly "market of the formerly rich" in Bangkok

middle classes is in trouble."

Until recently, Thailand

ranked as the seventh biggest

consumer of Mercedes cars in

A Bangkok travel agent says have fallen dramatically. Wasun Panon, president of Benz Thonglor, another big that up-country resorts are full of Thai visitors who would normally have gone abroad,

aged to capitalise on the market melidown and sells

used cars and luxuries such as

Rolex watches at his popular

"market for the formerly rich"

but with the Thai baht having fallen in a few months from 24 to the US dollar to yesterday's 44 baht, a foreign holiday is

out of the question. Analysts say one of the problems was that Thailand never went high-tech, but concentrated on producing lowtech toys, textiles and goods

now made cheaper in China. Everyone tried to fill their pockets and did not go up-

scale," said one. Meanwhile, markets are saturated with supplies of everything from cement to steel to semi-conductors.

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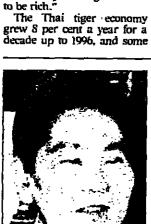
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Hopes dashed, page 27



#### Marcos: court returned Banks told to release **Marcos**

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FROM PETER CAPELLA

IN GENEVA

SWITZERLAND'S Supreme legal battle by ordering Swiss banks to return assets of Ferdinand Marcos, the late Philippines President, to Manila.

In a landmark 50-page rul-ing, the court said it was against Switzerland's national interests to become a refuge for capital flight and for funds of criminal origin. It is the first clear signal that Swiss secrecy laws will no longer provide protection for assets of foreign dictators.

The Justice Ministry said that it could speed up attempts by Pakistan to seize SwFr20 million (£9 million) held by the family of Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister. The Democratic Republic of Congo is also trying to recover millions of pounds believed to have been deposit-ed the late President Mobutu.

The Marcos judgment, covering \$100 million of his fortune in Switzerland, sets a precedent for the remaining \$400 million.

PER SECOND BILLING

#### Fears for Suharto as doctors

bar travel Jakarta: Fears about the health of Indonesia's President Suharto reached new heights yesterday after doctors reversed an earlier decision

and told the 76-year-old leader not to attend a regional summit in Malaysia. Mr Suharto, who has ruled Indonesia since 1966, was described as only resting by a government spokesman. Other sources, however, said he had suffered a mild stroke and

that his kidneys had almost ceased functioning. A team of ten doctors is on 24-hour call. "The President has been rejuvenated by his rest ... but this fitness needs to be maintained. If the President makes

a long-distance trip, it is feared he will take a long time to

recover," a spokesman said. seen relaxed and smiling on Indonesian television Thursday in his first public appearance since rumours about his health surfaced. He is the world's second longest serving ruler after Fidel Castro of Cuba, and fell ill on returning from a two-week, three-continent tour last month. The spokesman added that Mr Suharto had also cancelled a visit to his wife's

grave in central Java. News of the cancelled foreign tour caused the currency and stocks to fall sharply. The Jakarta Composite Index fell 30.26 points, or 7.64 per cent. to a 52-month closing low of 365.85, down more than 50 per cent from its peak of 742.95 in early July.

Television stations interrupted their programmes to show a meeting between Mr Suharto and Ali Alatas, Indonesia's Foreign Minister. The head of state appeared weak and puffy-eved.



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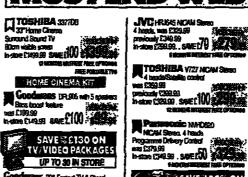
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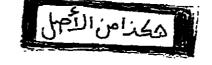
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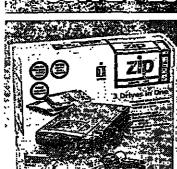
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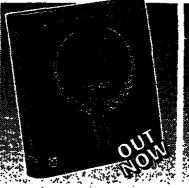
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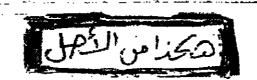


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### Children must have chances to overcome our worst fears

NOT everyone agrees with the robust morality of Anne Aikins, but she has abundant courage. As an agony aunt she has frequently said that children should not be confined and overprotected: during the dreadful hours this week when her own 12-yearold was missing, she stuck to her guns. Even with a police search in progress, she told reporters: "I firmly believe we should not deny children freedom. I shall go on believing in that, even if we find something awful has happened to her."

Given the prevailing terror of middle-class parents about murderers, molesters and drug barons, that is brave. But Mrs Arkins has been criticised for having what her neighbours refer to as "free-range children". Today it is far easier to be criticised for giving children independence than for overprotecting them.

The stories of Lara Atkins and other recent runaways sharpen the dilemma over children's freedom. One day, whether early or late, briefly or permanently, they will have to confront the world without us. So when do we let them shop with a friend, walk alone through a town, take public transport unchaperoned? How do we teach them streetwisdom, safe ways of reacting to catcalls and harassment, aggressive beggars and the frankly crazy approaches of wild-eyed citizens wishing to warn them about the arrival of Satan on a spaceship? I was glad to be only a few paces behind my young daughter in Lowestoft for that particular one, but admired her ability to smile graciously while walk-

However insistent we are on driving and policing our children, the runaways remind us that they will eventually go out into the world to try them-selves for to get away from us, or from exams, or a broken heart). Neurotic parents, who indulge their own terrors by



Libby Purves looks back on

a week when

the runaways were big news

refusing their offspring all chance to practice independence, often regret it. Their children either rebel and lead a vivid, dangerous, double life that they dare not discuss, or else grow up stunted, fearful and overdependent. Whether wild or withdrawn, they find the sudden freedom of university baffling and sometimes disastrous.

Where is the balance? Can children themselves help? There is only one fully democratic children's community in England, and that is Summerhill "free" school in Suffolk, run by Zoe Readhead, the daughter of the pioneering A.S. Neill, on his principle of giving children a full voice. They make their own list of "Laws" at a democratic meeting where children can easily outvote teachers, and it occurred to me to consult it.

Ofsted may currently have the knife in Summerhill over educational standards but, when it comes to behaviour. the 60-strong boarding school is observably less anarchic than some comprehensives. The meeting imposes penalties, and sticks to them. On

school bounds, Mrs Readhead says, the children prove per-fectly capable of weighing up danger against freedom. They "realistic" - which is to say largely unbothered — about the statistically small danger of molesters, but well aware of the real risk of being roughed up by local thugs.

Their laws on freedom are interestingly complex, and adjusted according to the season and the hours of darkness. They have formulated clear views on development and independence: "A 16-year-old can take under-8s down town. A 12 can go alone. A 9 and a 10 can go together. An 8 can go with a 13...two 14s can go to a radius of 50 miles. A 16 can go to a radius of 100 miles." Behaviour is equally circumscribed: within school they run wild, bathe naked and practise woodcraft, but: "No sheath knives down town, no dirty clothes, keep off the railway tracks and building

These details are worth recording because - although Neill's theory of total educational freedom does not match current sensibilities - his faith in children's ability to make sensible rules is apparently justified. But it is hard: it takes discussion. Working parents, stressed and guilty, spend more time on the train and in the office reading newspaper horrors about rare child murders than they ever do in talking relaxedly about the world with their own real

We then try to compensate by being dictatorial and controlling the details of our growing children's lives as if they were babies or morons. To relax that control, frankly, feels dangerous.

But never to relax it at all, to coddle and chauffeur and bothouse a potentially capable child, has different dangers. Many would say they are



Zoe Readhead at Summerhill, where children set penalties and stick to them. They are capable of weighing danger against freedom, she says

#### **GROWING PAINS: THE YOUNG ONES WHO PUT THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH WORRY AND JOY**

■ LARA ATKINS, 12, daughter of the agony aunt Anne Atkins was found andering the streets by a family friend after disappearing for 36 hours from her home in West London. Mrs Atkins and her husband, Shaun, a Church of England vicar, described her daughter as "wacky, intelligent and bouncy" but not streetwise. Mrs Atkins said: There are better ways to have an adventure. We're so pleased to have her home that we couldn't think of rebuking her. We have a lot of talking and hugging to

do." Lara, known as Bink, said: "I'm very sorry that I caused everybody so much worry. I didn't realise there would be so moch bassle " Catherine and Gordon Davies found their son Alex. 17, in Leicester Square

after a 31-day search. His







Lost and found: from left, Alistair Tanner, Olga Cardew, Alex Davies and parents, and Lara Atkins were all safe

disappearance was prompted by worries about his mock A levels. He is now back at home in Clevedon, Somerset. Mrs Davies said: "I looked at this bearded face and it wasn't Alex's, then I saw the Tottenham scarf and recognised his eyes. He just said 'Mum'. We collapsed into each other's arms." Alex, who had

spent the month sleeping

rough, said: "It was a relief when they found me." Olga Cardew and Alistair Tanner, both 17, ran away from their Dorset boarding school, Bryanston. for a romantic trip in Paris. Their parents travelled to France to bring them home. Alistair's father was said to be 'angry and disappointed" at his son's behaviour. Clare Price of Bryanston

said: "It is not something we would want our pupils to be encouraged to do, but this is not a prison." ■ In contrast, Robert and Margaret Foraker were granted a restraining order to keep their 6ft son. Robert, 19, away from their cottage in Tuddenham St Mary, Suffolk, after

weeks of violent outbursts in

which he broke a -

lavatory and shattered a window. He was convicted of eight counts of harassment. His father said: We do not want sympathy. We want medical help for our son. He has done wrong, but I do not want him in jail any more than I would anyone else's son."

**JOANNA BALE** 

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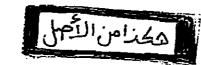
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#### THE ROBINSON AFFAIR

### Taxing times for Paymaster



Geoffrey Robinson: defended by the Prime Minister

#### HOW HE ROSE TO FAME, FORTUNE AND INFLUENCE

■ May 25 1938: born in Sheffield, son of a furniture manufacturer. ■ 1958: joins Labour Party while reading modern language at Cambridge. ■ 1965-68: Labour Party research

■ 1967: married the Maltese-born opera singer Marie Elena Giorgio.
■ 1968-70: appointed senior executive of the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation.
■ 1971-72: financial controller at British Leyland.

■ 1972-73: managing director of Leyland Innocenti. Milan. Meets the exotic and sensuous Joska Bourgeois, rich from the Jaguar franchise she holds for Belgium. They become friends and allies.

■ 1973-75: managing director and chief executive of Jaguar Motor Cars Coventry.

■ 1976: beats 100 applicants to stand for the safe Labour seat of Coventry North West which he wins in by-election.
■ 1978-80: unpaid chief executive of the Meriden motorcycle co-operative.
■ 1981: Transfer Technology created with help of a loan from Mme Bourgeois. The business transfers ideas from the university to the market. In Coventry, wins votes of confidence against leftwingers.
■ 1982: becomes science spokesman.

■ 1983: moves to Orchards, a Lutyens

mansion near Godalming, Surrey. ■ 1983-84: nominates Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley for Labour leadership. Spokesman on regional affairs.

■ 1984: fined after sleeping off Christmas party on motorway hard shoulder. 🔳 1984-86: industry spokesman. Steps down for personal reasons". ■ 1987: pays libel damages for misquoting Norman Tebbit as saying "nobody with a conscience votes Conservative". Becomes director of Central & Sheerwood, industrial conglomerate chaired by Robert Maxwell.

1988-89: does not make a single parliamentary speech all session.

1989: clings to seat after winning less than 51 per cent in reselection battle.

1991: deal effectively merges Transfer Technology with Central & Sheerwood — known as TransTec. Mr Robinson becomes chairman and chief executive. ■ 1994: Mme Bourgeois dies at 81 in one of her Cannes apartments bequeathed to Mr Robinson. Rescues the New Statesman and buys a large chunk of Coventry City Football Club. Stands down as chief executive of TransTec. Institutional shareholders reported to have been unhappy about the shares' performance. ■ 1997: appointed Paymaster General.

The man who uses the same gym as the Chancellor is putting the Government under unaccustomed strain, report Dominic Kennedy and Richard Owen in Rome.

eering through the steam in the sauna at one of Britain's most exclusive health clubs, an observer might spot the pale and fleshy form of the man at the centre of the Government's first major personality crisis.

sonality crisis.

Typically, Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, might be joined by fellow users of the £1,190-a-head Grosvenor House Health Club such as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Michael Barrymore, the television comedian.

In an extraordinary week

In an extraordinary week for his Government, the Prime Minister has chosen to put his reputation on the line to defend on television a multimillionaire member of his Treasury team who happens to have provided the Blair family with a holiday home in

the Tuscan sun for the past two summers.

Mr Robinson, 59, is the government minister who announced last week that any life savings over £50,000 would be taxed, yet he has been the master of tax avoidance.

He is a beneficiary of a

family trust, worth at least £12 million, in the tax-free haven of Guernsey. The Tuscan home that he lends to the Blairs is assigned to a company rather than any individual. a tax-efficient way of owning property in Italy.

The London penthouse where he lives during the week leased from the Grosvenor House Hotel and offering 24-hour service, is execupt from council tax because the property is registered as hotel accommodation.

It smells of hypocrisy, which the British public — especially Labour voters — hate above all other vices.

As companions in the Park Lane gymnasium, the Paymaster might be thought to have nothing to hide from the puritarical Mr Brown. But does the Chancellor, who is regarded as the Paymaster's most loyal supporter, know everything about the elder man's eventful past?

man's eventful past?

Tony Blair, who is sure to



A leaflet extolling the health club's benefits

have sought Mr Brown's advice before going on Channel 4 News to defend Mr Robinson on Monday, is facing a crucial test. The Prime Minister took a bold risk when he told millions of viewers: "If people of high calibre are to come into the Government and work as former business people, they bring an enormous amount to the way that Government is

will Mr Blair, like John Major, be crippled by protecting friends long beyond the date when they have lost all political credibility? Or will he ruthlessly sack dead weights, as did Clement Attlee, the Labour Prime Minister who

founded the welfare state?

Mr Robinson can console himself by reflecting on the many potential pitfalls he has avoided on his winding path towards the Treasury. He has been in politics so long that his first substantial job was working for Tony Benn in the days when the left-wing standard bearer was part of Labour's

mainstream. During the 1960s Mr Robinson was appointed to the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, a socialist interventionist body designed to save important national industries from the perceived failures of the market, it played a part in the creation of the British Levland Motor Company, which owned Jag-

uar Cars.

The head of BLMC was Lord Stokes, who received his peerage partly because of the formation of the company Mr Robinson's role in the creation of BLMC impressed Lord Stokes, who gave him a job. Former colleagues say the young Mr Robinson was favoured by Lord Stokes and had a reputation for being untouchable.

o be appointed as the chairman of Jaguar Cars in his mid-30s in 1974 was an enviable achievement for Mr Robinson. To leave only 18 months later. with a rumoured payoff of \$50,000, was oddly abrupt.

Several Leyland insiders have told The Times about those days. Mr Robinson had been chosen to run Innocenti, the car company's Italian arm near Milan, where he met Joska Bourgeois, the glamorous and wealthy Belgian divorce. She is supposed to have set up the Guernsey trust whose multimillion-pound tax-free assets he and his family can now enjoy, while he proposes to tax ordinary peuple's life savings over £50,000.

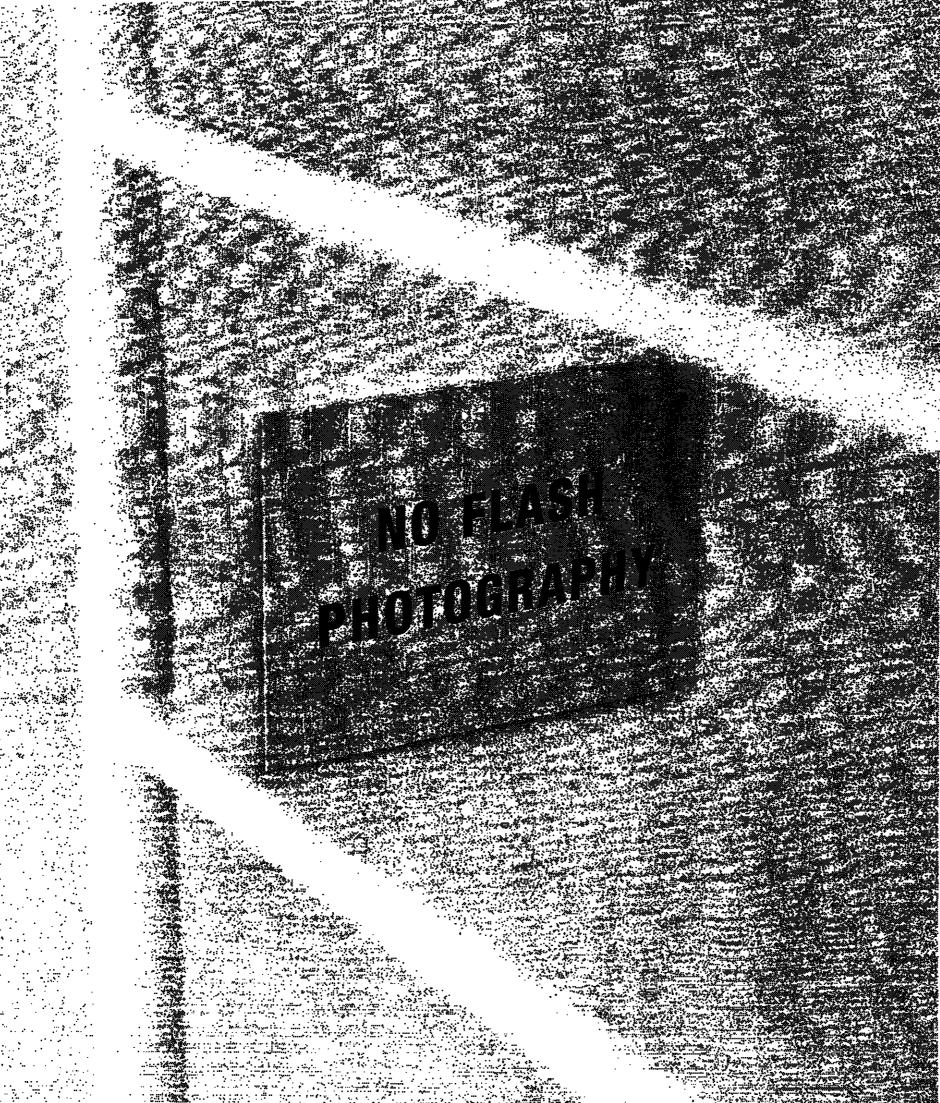
ple's life savings over £50,000. In his short time as head of Jaguar, Mr Robinson became embroiled in a row over the awarding of a contract for metal to build a huge "paint shop" for cars in Coventry to a firm from the Milan area. Before long he was gone, resigning when the company's subsidiaries were merged under the Ryder Plan to save British car manufacturing.

Mr Robinson became a Labour MP in Coventry in 1976. Although colleagues in industry from his early days had assumed he was apolitical, he offended some Leyland managers by becoming too close to the unions. One former director said: "He cosied up to the trade unions. He was really giving them far too much run in the factory operationally."

r Robinson's fraternisation with union officials and Latour activists belied his appetite for a lavish lifestyle. While he was always known to enjoy a glass of whisky, today he is more likely to be seen with a glass of champagne in his hand.

His most embarrassing drinking episode came in 1984 when he was found guilty of being in charge of a car while unfit by drink. He was discovered by police, fast asleep in the fully-reclined seat of his Daimler on the hard shoulder of the M6, Nuneaton magis-

Continued on facing page



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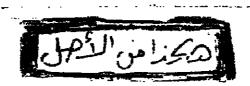
Throughout these various trials and tribulations it's worth remembering that things could be an awful lot worse. You could have bought a compact camera that no-one pays any attention to whatsoever. Now that really would have been a pity.



THE NEW OLYMPUS MJU II



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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997

#### THE ROBINSON AFFAIR

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Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, arriving at a council function in Coventry yesterday. Labour sources say he has become known as the offshore trust minister

### Minister's fate lies in own hands

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

THE trigger for Genffrey Robinson's departure from the Government lies in his hands, not Tony Blair's. The Prime Minister has made clear that he is standing four square behind the Paymaster General.

But according to Labour sources, Mr Robinson, whose every move is dogged by questions about his financial arrangements, might reason that he has become too much of an embarrassment to the Government and decide himself to quit. "Blair is not going to ditch him but if this does not die down Robinson may decide of his own accord he has had enough." one Lahour source said.

On Monday night Mr Blair was more effusive than he had to be in his praise for the minister in an interview on Channel 4 News. But Margaret Thatcher famously described her brilliant Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, as "unassailable" - and he was gone within months. John Major's declarations of support for ministers were deemed a sure sign that they would be out within days, as David Mellor, for one, could

The critical point for the Paymaster General will be this evening, when the first editions of The Sunday Times and The Observer appear. Last week both newspapers reported a series of allega-

tions about Mr Robinson's links to other offshore trusts which he has since denied, threatening to sue both publications.

Friends of Mr Robinson. who concede that his offshore trust is an embarrassment to the Government, know that the next 24 hours are the most crucial period.

If there are any new revelations, which could show that the minister had withheld information about his business arrangements, he could be gone within 24 hours. Both the Prime Minister and the Paymaster General know it.

But Labour sources said last night that the Prime Minister, by going out on a limb on Monday night, had in effect allied himself to Mr Robinson. "The trigger is with Geoffrey. It may be that he will decide he has had enough because wherever he goes. and wherever he speaks. he is asked about the trust. He has become known as the offshore trust minister," a party source

Mr Robinson will be spared a Commons interrogation over the trust because he is not scheduled to answer Treasury questions until the middle of next month, by which time Labour strategists hope that the fuss will have died down.

"If the row is still rumbling he may have to think again."

#### Continued from facing page

Tecord

trates were told. He admitted drinking four large sherries during a buffet lunch. After falling asleep at the wheel, he pulled the car straight into the hard shoulder, which he thought was a layby. The bench fined him a total of £420, including penalties for failing to provide a breath test and having no lights, but he kept his licence. Mr Robinson said there would be fewer accidents if people stopped driving when they were too

tired to go on. Now he has two chauffeurs and two Jaguars. But to avoid upstaging ministerial colleagues, he uses a chauffeur-

driven government Rover. Robinson's relationship with Tony Benn and his part in nationalising the motor industry did not save him when the Bennites were on the march in the Eighties. He narrowly managed to defeat a left-wing reselection battle with a vote of just 51 per cent against a local schoolteacher.

One former Labour frontbencher, who knew Mr Robinson when he entered the House of Commons, said that he had failed to fulfil his

potential in the early days. He was clearly bright and obviously had ability. But he did not push himself. He was well known to Neil Kinnock because of his considerable experience of industry. Many of us thought he had the potential to go on the frontbench but I am not sure if he would have won an election to the Shadow Cabinet."
But Lord Callaghan of Car-

diff, who was Prime Minister when Mr Robinson became an MP, has rallied to his defence: "He was clearly one to watch but I could hardly have made a new boy a minister when many other able MPs had been around for a much longer time.

"I would not blame Geoffrey Robinson if he felt fed up by this if, as he says, he is in the clear. Politicians are now sub-

jected to ridiculous levels of scrutiny. The effect of the hounding is to make publicspirited successful people feel disenchanted. The risk is that they will decide that politics is not a career worth pursuing. That would be a terrible

shame." Instead of living in his industrial West Midlands constituency, Mr Robinson divides his time in England between no fewer than three homes designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. For holidays, the MP can turn to properties in Cannes and Tuscany.

o one side of the Tuscan villa is a 45ft swimming pool. In prepared by Paul, Mr Robinson's Galician chef, are served under giant umbrellas on a patio at the back of the house overlooking the valley of olive trees that leads to San Gimignano, known as the "Mediaeval Manhattan" because of its skyline of 13th-century towers.

Did the MP. perhaps over a glass or two of Vernaccia, the fruity local white wine, ever tell Mr Blair the story of how he managed, perfectly legally, to minimise the tax bill for his

property in Italy?

According to local public records Mr Robinson bought the estate - a former farm in July 1992 for £250,000. Estate agents in the area put the estate's current market value at about £3 million. It is registered in nearby Siena in the name of a company called Castelli Mucchio Villa di Robinson Geoffrey and Co, owned by Mr Robinson and his daughter Veronique, who was 22 at the time of the deal. Lawyers say it is common practice in Italy for individuals to set up companies to buy property, since companies pay a lower rate of property tax.

Mr Robinson is close to Franco Nencione, the Mayor



Mr Robinson with his wife and daughter in 1976 when he was with Jaguar

of San Gimignano, who belongs to the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), the former Italian Communist Party, which regards itself as the Italian equivalent of the Labour Party. In August Mr

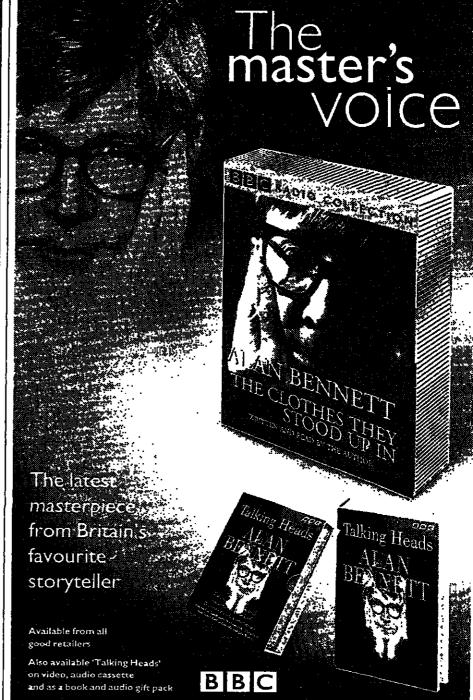
A man at home anywhere: page 20

Robinson was accused by Tory MPs of feudal barrering when it emerged that he paid local labourers at Mucchio in kind in return for tending his olive groves. But Mr Robinson made clear that he generated

no income from the arrange Paymaster General began this week happily in Gdansk, Poland, where his

wife Marie Elena Giorgio was singing opera. He returned to face the music as two Sunday

Continued on page 20



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The leased eighth-floor flat at Grosvenor House

#### THE ROBINSON AFFAIR

### Avid collector of rooms at the top

Aficionados of Lutyens's designs

approve of minister's patronage

GEOFFREY ROBINSON collects homes like other millionaires acquire paintings, according to Roderick Gradidge. the architect and biographer of Sir Edwin Lutyens.

"It is only proper for a rich man to buy these houses and understand they are not just somewhere to live but are really major works of art in their own right." he says.

The MP fell in love with Lutvens's work when he acquired Orchards, which was designed in 1807 for Lady Chance, a sculptor, and her husband Sir William. It was built near Godalming in the "Surrey vernacular" style, inspired by Lutvens's memories of an old farmhouse in the

county of his youth. Mr Robinson had hoped to create a theatre in the old stables where his wife could sing, but the plan was abandoned.

Orchards is small enough to be a family home and is his main country residence in England. It is worth £1 mill-

When Mr Robinson bought Marsh Court, another of the architect's best-loved houses, Lutyens enthusiasts were

The building, with views of the Test Valley, was designed in the style of a hunting lodge in about 1901 for Herbert Johnson a stockbroker, It is on a grand scale with 15 main bedrooms, five smaller ones, four cottages, a staff flat, chapel and swimming pool.

Marsh Court had been used as a preparatory school, and admirers of the architect's work were glad that Mr Robinson intended to restore it to its glory as a country mansion. The Victorian Society and the Lutyens Trust are both excited by his plans.

The building had been on the marker for £3 million but the MP bought it for £800,000. Marsh Court is built of a

chalk-type stone. Its billiard table is made of chalk. enabling players literally to chalk their cues on it.

Mr Robinson was attracted by the fantastic ballroom. where his wife could sing. The gardens of both houses

are by Gertrude Jekyll, the Victorian gardener who pioneered the fashion for planting natural-looking grounds, using herbaceous borders, instead of formal beds of flowers. The properties are Grade

To complete his hat-trick of Lutyens properties. Mr Robinson leases a flat on the eighth floor of Grosvenor House in Park Lane, London, overlooking the Serpentine. The hotel's facade was designed by Lutyens in the 1920s. Mr Robinson is a member of the health club situated in the basement.

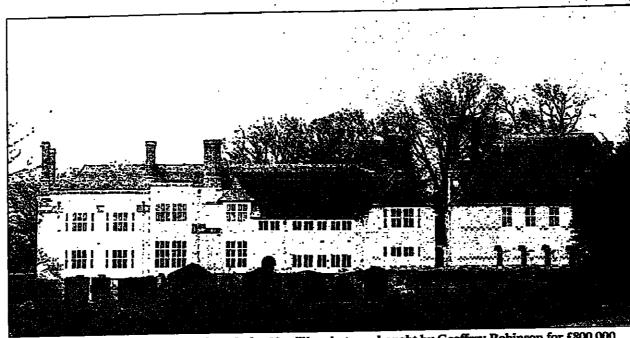
The MP's Tuscan property, where Tony Blair and his family have spent their past two summer holidays, is often described as a villa. However it is in fact an estate of medieval and Renaissance origins, with its own church and cottages, and with the neoclassical Villa Mucchio at its

According to local public records Mr Robinson bought the estate - a former farm in July 1992 from a German woman. Claudia Wald, for £250,000. Estate agents in the area have put the estate's current market value at about £3 million.

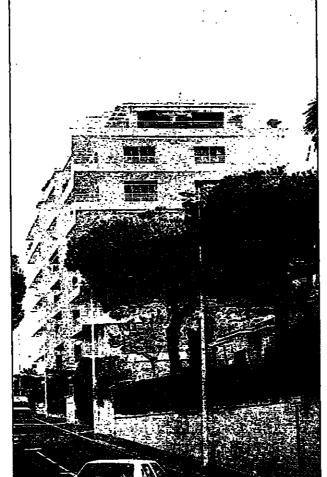
Mr Robinson has improved the estate, set amid the wooded hills and ravines near the town of San Girnignano. He has restored the three-storey villa, which is approached by a long private drive culminating in a glade of cypresses, oaks and pines. The neat flowerbeds in front of the solid oak double front door contain pomegranate bushes, hydrangeas and white roses. They are tended by two full-time gardeners.

His friend Joska Bourgeois also left him a £1.2 million flat overlooking the Mediterranean on the Avenue Hesperides in Cannes.

The penthouse, on the seventh and top floor, comprises three flats bought by Mme Bourgeois more than 15 years ago and decorated by her in what a neighbour described as a "style befitting her age". Mr Robinson has not touched the



Marsh Court, which had been for sale for £3 million, but was bought by Geoffrey Robinson for £800,000



The penthouse in Cannes, worth £1.2 million



The Tuscan property, left, worth £3 million; and Orchards, worth £1 million, his main country home in England

### A quiet high life on the Med

FROM ADAM SAGE IN CANNES

LIKE her neighbours in the apartment block in the Avenue des Hesperides, Cannes, Ginette Domini was surprised, amused and mildly envious when Geoffrey Robinson inherited a £1.2 million flat from his Belgian benefactor, Joska Bourgeois, in 1994.

They had expected the 400 sq m penthouse to be given to Mme Bourgeois's escort, an Algerian sweetfactory owner known to them as M Saad. "Mr Robinson was only one friend among many, or so we thought," Mme Domini said. "It was Saad who followed her every-

She paused to reflect: "I suppose we saw less of Saad towards the end of her life. They seemed to stop living together but he still came to see her from time to time, so they can't have fallen out

One of the Paymaster's houses, Orchards near Godal-

ing chairman and Mr

dence. Maybe the Chancellor will ask him about it at the

Until Mr Robinson an-

swers the outstanding questions that have been put to him

by the press and his political opponents, he will continue to be hounded. If he turns to

fight a libel action, he must stand down as a minister. And

as long as he remains in the

Treasury he will be an embarrassment to Mr Blair and new

Labour, conjuring up the spec-tre of sleaze that did for Mr

☐ Additional reporting by

Major's Government

Chris Ayres.

altogether." Another neigh-bour said: "Saad was the man in Mme Bourgeois's life. He was a lot younger than her a lot - and very handsome. Mr Robinson? I don't know him. He never introduced himself and he never stopped to say hello."

Behind a thick layer of make-up, her face showed astonishment that the "English gentleman" should have obtained what is considered to be the finest apartment in Mme Domini said that

three or four months a year in Cannes but Mr Robinson made only infrequent visits to the flat, which has sweeping views of the exclusive Port Canto district and the Medi-

Mme Bourgeois had spent

terranean beyond. If he has kept a low profile



Bourgeois: took young men on sea cruises

in the three years that he has owned the penthouse, the same could not be said of Mme Bourgeois. Her wealth, jewellery and character at-tracted attention. "She was

very elegant and very re-

fined," Mme Domini said. "But she was not someone to be trifled with.

She had her point of view and woe betide anyone who disagreed. She could tell you red was white and if you tried to point out she was wrong. she'd slap you down very firmly. You could tell she was used to the business world."

Mme Bourgeois was known to neighbours for taking younger men on Mediterranean cruises and for her famous acquaintances. Christiaan Barnard, the first sur- 🥻 transplant, was a regular visitor to the flat and Mme Bourgeois\_claimed to know President Reagan.

A neighbour setting off to walk her dachshunds along the Croisette said: "She was someone out of the ordinary. someone exceptional. Mr Robinson is far more



#### **Taxing** our Christmas \* times Continued from page 19 newspapers made allegations about his financial affairs. The next day, issuing detailed de-nials of any financial links



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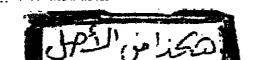
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### VALERIE GROVE MEETS: COLIN BLAKEMORE

عكذ لمن رلامل

### The brain with a mind to warn us on red meat

rofessor Colin Blakemore, lean as a greyhound, has run 18 marathons, including the Olympic centenary event from Marathon to Athens where he came first in his age group (he is 53.) On Thursday night's Dispatches programme he told us he gave up eating beef in 1987 and would advise parents of small children to eschew both lamb and beef and stick to chicken: "safer than warm-blooded animals with hooves".

The Waynflete Professor of Physiology at Oxford is the model of the modern academic forever on the Internet, on the mobile phone, and on the move. I reached him by cellphone as he travelled on the Circle Line from a symposium on the legalisation of cannabis (he is for it) en route for Oxford where he was due to lecture on How The Brain Works.

Within the hour I joined him on the Oxford train where he kindly halved his Danish pastry: his only sustenance on a normal workaholic day. The night before he had been in France, organising European Brain Day next March. His involve-ment in the BSE debate came about two years ago, when Stephen Dorrell was saying "there is no conceivable risk of

transmission of this disease to human beings". Professor Blakemore came out and said this was an irresponsible statement. Things have moved on since then.

The sheep farmers are furious. I told him, having just heard their aggrieved voices on The World at One. "I don't blame them," he replied. "I'm very sorry for them. But public health issues come first. The current concern with lamb may not

merit a ban. But it's right that the public should know, even if there is a marginal risk." He is all for giving the facts and letting us make up our own minds. It is the Government's dilemma, to walk the fine line between nannying and merely advising sensible precautions.

"The European way is to lead public opinion, not follow it. On the evidence. people are slow to change they are influenced by their stornachs rather than their brains. We know junk food is bad for us, but people like the taste."

Perhaps his single-minded dedication to careful eating springs from his awareness of mortality. His father - a smoker who took no exercise — had a coronary at 45 and died at 63. Professor Blakemore told Antony Clare while In The Psychiatrist's Chair — where he emerged as wellbalanced and thoughtful - that he was ever on the lookout for early signs of forgetfulness in himself. He also had a duodenal ulcer in his teens and during his third year at Cambridge had a gastrectomy, losing half his stomach.

It gave me an early intimation of mortality. I always had the feeling that I'm not going to live for very long. Hence the attitude that life had to be lived as fully as possible: you never know how long it will last," I confessed to the professor that this weekend our family will consume an enormous rib of Aberdeen Angus, hung by the most reliable butcher in Scotland. "Well," he said not very reassuringly, "anyone who has been eating beef for the last ten years is not going to alter the risk by stopping now. The danger was greatest before the first case of BSE was discovered in the mid-80s. The risk is infinitesimally low, and the precautions are gradually working. The missing information is the average incubation period.

"Only 21 people have so far died from a period when a substantial proportion of cattle were infected, every scrap of them going into the food chain. We know of no factor of genetic make-up that might have made these poor people especially vulnera-ble. I make no predictions but I believe the beef ban will be seen to be prudent. You have to weigh your assessment of risks by imagining that it could happen to you; and it is a most horrible, destructive disease

and there is no cure.
"However small the risk, I would not go back. There are many reasons for not eating red meat. The professor is well acquainted with

more serious risks to his own life: from animal welfare activists who plagued him (with bombs, threats to kidnap his children, razor blades in envelopes, paint stripper on cars, balaclava'd figures on his doorstep) since he was singled out as a target when studying the development of vision in kittens. As a cat owner he has nothing against cats; but cats lives were sacrificed in the cause of preventing certain types of blindness. He declares that he hates working with ani-

mals, he thinks it is wrong, and evil, but "it is a utilitarian equation: it is necessary, and a scientist must have honesty and integrity, and be accountable". Hence his part in founding the Boyd Group, a forum uniting scientists and animal activists.

Colin Blakemore was an only child who lived in a poor, two-up two-down area of Coventry. His father sold televisions. But Colin prospered at King Henry VIII Grammar School, Coventry. He could have done modern languages; he took Alevel Art. (His tie, a striking riot of abstract colour, turned out to be by Kandinsky ("I so rarely wear a tie, it's worth making a statement"). "My parents had the most gratifyingly hands-off approach to me. They were mystified when I joined a record library and filled the house with Bruckner and Shostakovich. I had a hunger for culture and for making a better world, very common in the postwar Attlee years."

He went up to Cambridge on a scholarship to read medicine. It was the dawn of the post-Crick and Watson scientific era excitingly dominated by genetics. Professor Richard Gregory turned him on to the delights of visual perception and how neurons decoded messages from the eyes. He went on a Harkness scholarship to Berkeley and

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studied the visual cortex with the eminent visual physiologist Horace Barlow, great grandson of Darwin. We were passing the Oxford Museum of

on Darwin took place between T. H. Huxley and Bishop Wilberforce in 1860" — and reached his office, a high-tech cupboard with a Francis Bacon on the wall, given to him by Bacon himself. Central TV waited to interview him about BSE. There were 100 e-mails on his screen.

He gave me a 20-minute seminar on the human eye (not much different from the eye of the frog) and how 30 per cent of our cerebral cortex is devoted exclusively to vision, how the brain decodes and parses visual images; and how genetic diseases, neurological and psychiatric conditions, may be based on the way the cerebral cortex develops.

"I think we will discover to our horror that many of the most personal and sacred aspects of individuality are determined genetically. Female sociability, we already know, comes from one specific gene on the

X chromosome, which comes from the father, and which boys do not inherit." I could have listened all night but we had to depart for Templeton College and the Natural History - where the great debate gathering of Price Waterhouse accounin intelligence and the brain, and how to have better memories and make more effective decisions."

> he talk he gave was enthralling. The audience was particularly interested in how far silicon can mimic the functions of the brain. We are nowhere near making computers that can see or move around with the ease and skill of mice," he said, "We can do things with our brains that are fantastically complex and yet feel effortless. We store records of experience and selectively organise memories — including sights, sounds and smells - which a computer cannot. On the other hand, our numerical memory depends on relevance and usefulness." He did his party trick, reproducing from memory 18 lines of figures on a screen (they

their three children, his telephone number, wedding anniversary etc.) Cunning - but pathetic compared with the thousands of bytes in his tiny pocket calculator.

has become one of the scientists embraced by the media: "After all, scientists depend on public money and we do have a responsibility to communicate. Science throws up great moral dilemmas. If we just create the dilemmas and step back, we get the blame for whatever goes wrong nuclear power, chemical warfare, abuse of eugenics.

Professor Blakemore, current president of the British Association and long associated with Copus (Royal Society Committee for the Public Understanding of Science) is convinced that governments have a duty to implement scientific advice: "Otherwise it reflects badly on science, when things go wrong." I shall think of him over our roast rib of beef.

Letters, page 23

#### **Vibrant** revival is fair game for laughs

**Bartholomew Fair** 

Swan, Stratford

othing like a modern fair." declares the author of a programme note describing the bash our ancestors threw every August in Smithfield. That is not, however, the view of Laurence Boswell, who directs the latest revival of Jonson's most ebullient comedy.

To judge by the mix of toppers, Hawaiian shirts, leopardskin jackets, baseball caps and spangled décolletages to be seen under the swaying electric builds of Tom Piper's set, Bartholomew Fair was a Technicolor nowhere-very-clear. Call it the Malibu parish of the Benidorm district of the Blackpool region of the Las Vegas suburb of what, since giant puppets as well as people come cavorting onstage, must be Rio.

Does this failure to be specific matter? Well, the most effective revivals of the play I can recall have had some period consistency Moreover, the attempts of Bos-well's cast to be vivid and hilarious can become strenuous and counterproductive. Yet there were moments when Jonson's good nature and comic generosity are hard to resist,

In no other play does he so fully demonstrate his love of disguises, con-tricks, misconduct. lust and the pricking of hypocrisy and flouting of pomposity. Merely to go to Bartholomew Fair, like Stephen Boxer's dim Littlewit and Tom Goodman-Hill's still dopier Cokes, is to blunder unarmed into a universe where different moral physics apply. To try to curb the chaos, as do John Quayle's magisterial Overdo and David Henry's puritan Zeal-of-the-land Busy, is like fending off Niagara with an umbrella.

The company, from Gavin Muir as a male nanny in loud yellow tartan through Carol Macready as a vast, sweaty porkcook to Kevork Malikyan as a monomaniac who believes he can not sneeze without getting a warrant from Judge Overdo, display unflagging energy. But there is miscasting at the centre. The disasters that overtake Overdo — whose busybodying results in him being beaten, put in the stocks, and discovering his wife has been hijacked by pimps — would be funnier naturally benign actor, Quayle. could validly be described as someone who "burns blue and swells like a boil an' he be angry". Likewise with Henry's 7ealof-the-Land, who is physically for-

midable but not slimy enough for it to be satisfying when he is bested in argument by the star of a puppet-show. Nevetheless, the moral that both men end up endorsing comes across strongly enough: "Remember you are but Adam. flesh and blood." That was Jonson's case against the prudes and scolds of his day and, let's concede, isn't without aptness in our own.

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### cross when we light up

Put puritanism in your pipe and

smoke it, says Roger Scruton

Then Parliament is not rubber-stamping decrees from Brussels, it shows off its dwindling power by issuing decrees of its own, designed to oppress our old minorities. The ban on handguns ushered in a new style of self-righteous politics, in which real and present dangers are ignored in favour of soft domestic targets. Hunting follows handguns as a matter of course. Henceforth, the most important question will always be this: which group of law-abiding people, engaged in some old-fash-ioned and politically incorrect pursuit, will be the next to offend the suburban prudes who govern us? The answer for the moment

is clear: smokers. Take one look at the typical smoker and you will see why. He has done nothing to transgress the old morality, belongs to no privileged minority, is neither gay nor a single parent nor anything else which attracts the enthusiastic condescension of our new elite. His inexcusable crime is to have exchanged quantity of life for quality. cheerfully accepting what, by modern standards, is an early death, as the price to be paid for his old-fashioned habit. And the terrible thing - the thing which really gets up the nose of Ms Grundy MP - is that someone is making a profit from his weakness. People do not merely buy cigarettes; they also sell them.

The current attack on tobacco advertising is an unusually ambitious act of censorship. involving organised mendacity of a kind that far surpasses what we have seen from the opponents of fox-hunting (though that was unscrupulous enough). We are told that tobacco costs the NHS £1.7 billion a year - though how this can be so, when smokers die earlier from causes (heart disease and cancer) which are just as likely to afflict the rest of us, nobody has explained. Is it only because of smoking that we don't all live for ever, troubling the NHS for the occasional organ transplant when the going gets rough? The propaganda is crimi-

selective. Excessive meat-eating increases the chance of cancer. Motor cars pollute the atmosphere, fray the nerves and shorten the lives of all of us. They are the direct cause of death and injury, and burden the NHS with complex and expensive surgery. Should we ban the advertising of cars?

If we are to engage in such busybodying politics, we ought to be clear about our principles. If a product is legally sold, the producer has a right to advertise and the consumer a right to be informed about the product. To override that principle is not merely to violate the freedoms on which the market economy depends; it is to open the way to unfair trading.

The most reprehensible feature of the attack on tobacco, however, is not the contempt for established rights but the

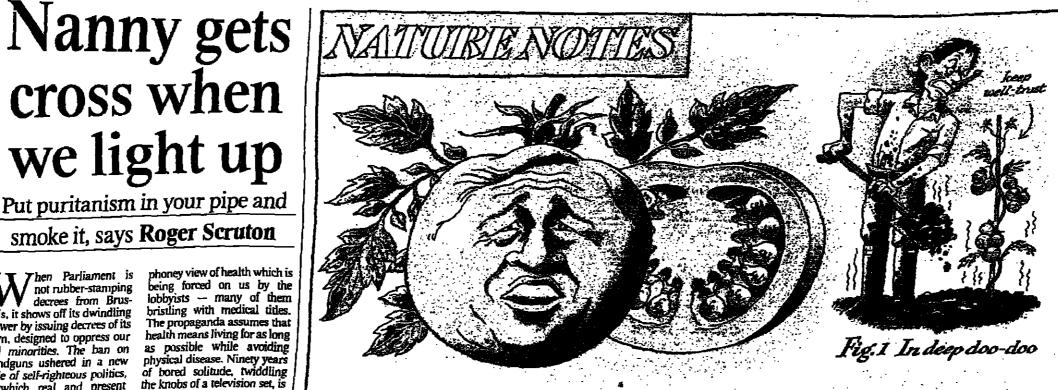
phoney view of health which is being forced on us by the lobbyists - many of them bristling with medical titles. The propaganda assumes that health means living for as long as possible while avoiding physical disease. Ninety years of bored solitude, twiddling the knobs of a television set, is apparently no sign of sickness. Mental equilibrium, creative energy, social participation and spiritual calm have all been censored out of the official view of health, even though they are essential to anything that our ancestors would have recognised as the good life for man.

Properly used, tobacco makes a real and positive contribution to health. It calms the nerves and imposes moments of rest and contemplation; it also equips people for the trials of social life by providing something which can be offered and accepted at any time of the day. It is from the American pipe of peace that we learnt to smoke. Our ancestors perceived the great moral and social benefits that the Indians obtained from this source, and were wise enough to bring it home with them.

moking tobacco is also

an outgoing diversion, involving none of the morbid self-obsession associated with the smoking of cannabis. Unlike drug users, smokers are not more disposed to crime than the rest of us, nor do they suffer that catastrophic decline into lying, cheating and self-pity which we know from drug addiction. And if tobacco is addictive, so too are pop music, television and soft pornography, all of which are genuinely un-healthy, since they trivialise the loyalties and corrode the social capacities of their targets. In a letter to The Times of December 3, a group of pompous paediatricians warned us that smokers start their habit in adolescence. When else does anything start? To think that adolescents are at risk from tobacco adverts, when the Prodigy are adulated for the song Slap My Bitch Up, and when fanzines inform the young that sexual promiscuity and drug-inducted stupor are the marks of social style, is to have a perverted view of what health consists in. It was King James I who

began the war against tobacco, sounding off in tetchy prose against a habit that he was powerless to cut off - although he did cut off the head of Sir Walter Raleigh, who introduced it. Despite the EU. the House of Commons now has more power than any Stuart king, and less respect for the rights of old minorities. That is not how the House of Commons sees itself, but that is how it is. A new body of inverted puritans sits in judgment over us, animated by a censorious passion that ought to be quite foreign to the political process, but which is foreign no longer. The time has come to blow smoke in



Robinson's Guernsey Tomato (Youmustus trustus) This 'Money-maker' variety, when introduced to the hot-house atmosphere of Westminster, can produce red faces all round. For bourgeois tastes.

### Sponsorship unlimited

ommercial television this Christmas will be "brought to you" by the Panasonic Corporation of Japan. New Year's Eve and Day will come courtesy of Toyota. Its 19-programme bonanza over two days will promote the new Avensis car. Meanwhile Regent Street's lights are also up for sale. They currently blazon the name of Yves St Laurent along that oncegraceful sweep. Down below, London's black cabs are coated with corporate promotions. Knightsbridge station may be renamed "Harrods". The Sponsored Society takes another lurch forward.

You are a cultivated person. You like music and theatre. You take politics seriously and can keep life's trivia in proportion. Yet all around you claim to see a drift "down market". Television seems to be all game shows and old movies. The quality press has gone tabloid. Exam standards are falling. The Turner Prize is rubbish. Radio 3 has become Classic FM. Bad money has driven out good. The public guardians lack all conviction. Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world. Or so you think. And now they have flogged off When commercial television arri-

ved in Britain in 1955, programmes could be sponsored by advertisers. It was soon clear to the authorities that these "advertorials" were deceptive and undignified. They were banned and other ways found for television companies to print money. Under pressure from the companies. laughably pleading poverty, the rule against sponsorship has been reversed, except for the news. Powergen thus sponsors the weather forecast. Finance companies sponsor money programmes on radio. This week's £18 million deal with Toyota follows Cadbury's £10 million sponsorship of Coronation Street. A spokesman for ITV said on Thursday that such deals

"still have a long way to go yet".

At this point the mind can boggle. Not just advertising slots but whole networks are for sale. If a Panasonic Christmas, why not a Virgin Atlantic Queen riding in a Nissan royal coach to the NatWestminster Abbey? If the Cornhill Test match, why not the Ladbroke's opening of Parliament. the TSB Budget speech, the British Gas Sunday sermon? If universities, Tube stations, litter bins and street signs can be put out to sponsorship, what is to stop anything? Unless we can articulate the boundaries of taste, Does a corporate takeover of Christmas television deprive us of all dignity?

there is no reason to hold back. The BBC is going flat out for ratings to justify a soaring licence fee. It surely may as well use those ratings to secure advertising revenue instead.

Nor is advertising the only issue.

Nobody can scan a television schedule or the front page of a national newspaper and fail to observe them moving steadily "down market". When Radio 3 relaunched itself last month, it did so by promising not more Mozart or Brahms but more Richard Baker and Joan Bakewell.

Broadcast news comes littered with idiot sound effects. Once-serious newspapers promote health, sex and shopping guides. The ubiquitous search for new markets seems to rely on Mencken's dicturn that nobody

ever lost money by underestimating the publics intelligence. Everybody is eading for cultural hell in a handcart. This argument is as old as civilisa-

tion. From Milton through Cobbett to Gissing and Orwell, commentators have deplored declining standards of public "culture", usually defining that slippery word to suit the case in hand. Each generation has been appalled at the next. Probably the biggest trauma in the history of The Times was in 1971, when a large number of journalists publicly dissociated themselves from the "popularisation" of the paper under the august editorship of my col-league, William Rees-Mogg. Those journalists would have a fit today. Throughout history commentators have gazed about them and sighed. with T.S. Eliot's practical cat, that "the theatre's certainly not what it was". Nothing is ever what it was.

Just as crime is always rising inexorably, so the received wisdom is that culture is always degenerating. The villain is commercial pressure driving producers in the direction of mass markets, away from specialised and more high-minded ones. Mass production demands mass needs at the lowest common denominator; not just bread and circuses but sliced bread and raunchy circuses. In his

latest diatribe against this degenera-tion (The Way We Live Now, Pimlico). Richard Hoggart pleads for a "new clerisy", a regiment of intellectuals ready, like the intellectuals of old, to stand up for cultural values. Politicians are absolutist for family values, so why not for cultural ones? We claim to despise moral "relativists", yet we shrink from seeming cultural authoritarians. We use the words good and bad of morality but not of culture. That way we do not have to defend it against degeneration.

Yet much of the so-called down-market drift is a misnomer. It is what economists call a market correction, a search for a new balance of profit and loss amid ever-

changing competi-tion. This is nowhere more apparent than in the press. At present, falling sales of tabloid newspapers are mirrored by rising sheets, which have shifted to appeal to previous tabloid readers. Analysts

now suspect that the tabloids have gone too far down market, while the broadsheets are in danger of leaving a gap on their up-market flank. It was just such a gap that The Independent exploited in the late 1980s. Cultural activities must judge their markets to survive. That is their business, whether they depend on profit or are accountable to sponsors or taxpayers. What matters is the survival of public choice, and that depends on effective regulation. These markets usually go in cycles.

It is tendentious to generalise from an upswing or downswing in the market for books, newspapers, television programmes or junk art, especially when the only generalities that get airtime are pessimistic. Recent surveys by Social Trends suggest that Britons have never enjoyed so much book-buying, music-listening, filmproducing, novel-writing, theatreperforming and lecture-attending than now. Local arts festivals are booming. Anarchy there may be, but anarchy is not necessarily the enemy of culture. To popularise is not a dirty word. It can mean to diversify, to

deepen as well as broaden. Mr Hoggart's intellectuals must just

work harder for a hearing.
So what is wrong with Panasonic sponsoring Christmas on commercial television? Who cares about Regent Street or black cabs or Knightsbridge station? Those who need cross-subsidy should not look gift-horses in the mouth. Most commercial sponsors act from a mixture of motives. like patrons of old. Since many corporate taxes have declined, sponsorship is a "privatisation" of tax transfers to the community. It is an alternative to ever-tighter government support. So why not let the market rip? This is a free country in the 20th century, with no time for Milton's fastidious distinction between freedom and licence.

For an answer I turn to my collection of unfashionable virtues. In his television lectures on civilisation, Lord Clark defined a civilised community not by its art or politics or scientific advance but with a surprising word: courtesy. Millions of viewers must have sneered at this recourse to such a feeble, patrician concept. Yet I still regard courtesy, with all its nuances, as the best proxy for civilisation that I know.

n the sponsorship debate, the unfashionable concept is dignity. Dignity is as important in the public sphere as in the private. It is the lens through which we allow others to see us. I find nothing undignified in most corporate sponsorship. It is an eccentric contract between commerce and the community, but no less noble for that. A company giving to whatever takes the chairman's fancy is no different from the tycoon who buys a racehorse, backs a theatre or owns a loss-making newspaper. Not all re-wards in this world need be pecuniary, and thank goodness for that.

But there is dignity in the absence of advertising from the BBC. There is dignity in the banning of biliboards from the countryside, government buildings and motorway embankments. There is indignity in the sponsorship of Christmas on television and in what has been done to Regent Street. These are not issues of high culture. The world will not end if they are ignored. But I prefer them respected, and imagine others do too. The public domain needs regulating with conviction, by rulers who understand the meaning of words much out of fashion. One of them is dignity. The name's Bond - dorescue me

Simon Barnes is

not convinced that 007 is really tough

ames Bond is back. Yet another film. Tomorrow Never Dies, yet another actor. Pierce Brosnan. Bond is greater than ever, a figure with the same relationship to mortality as tomorrow itself. And still no

one has rumbled him Bond is, as ever, taken at face value: a strong man who rescues damsels in distress. The films have always taken this view: Bond, unflanpable, unbeatable, the ever-gallant damsel-rescuer. The truth could not be more different.

The Bond films merely portray Bond's fantasy of himself. But the books are canonical, and give a true picture of the real Bond: a man remarkable not for his strength but for his weakness; not for his inevitable success but for his intimate relationship with disaster.

The first myth to scotch is that of the damsel-rescuer. The truth is that damsels are far more likely to be Bond-rescuers. Time and again, Bond is saved from self-created disaster by the timely intervention of

Tiffany Case rescues him from the Spangled Mob and engineers their geraway by rail. Kissy Suzuki rescues him when he falls into the sea from a helium balloon. Tracy, his bride-to-be, rescues him after he collapses in an ice-rink. (The collapse was probably brought about by Bond's attempt to cure exposure and shock by drinking a quarter-pint of schnapps in a single, ill-advised gulp.)

The battle against Goldfinger was only won when, in every sense of the term. Pussy Galore changed sides. Pussy, you will recall, led a lesbian circus troupe called the Abro Cats. who turned to cat-burglary.

But Pussy changed everything for Bond. She helped him to save the world for democracy and then went to bed with him. telling him she had never met a man before. Bond, rejecting for once the obvious line — "I bet you say that to all the girls" — goes along with this and, as the book closes, his mouth comes ruthlessly down over hers. Of course it does. Pussy is no fool

and was smart enough to make herself the ultimate conquest, the ultimate symbol of the victory of right over wrong: wrong morals, wrong sexual orientation, all cured by one look at the rebellious comma of hair that always fell above one of the rather ironical eyebrows. Bond is no conqueror, but forever

conquered. Women annex him. They look after him. Bond is, in short, in constant need of mothering. These quasi-maternal flings bring security to a troubled man. Bond also seeks security in drink

in calm periods no more than half a bottle of spirits a day — "no one could call that excessive" — and in cigarettes, 60 or more Morland specials with the three gold rings. His snobberies are transparently arriviste. Bond is a weak and fallible man.

Many episodes take place in a partially concealed state of drunken funk. Time after time he is reduced to a grey, lunging automaton, and he remains one of the great creations of genre fiction. He is weak, he is a phoney, but he

prevails. What better character to identify with? Most of us spend our lives waiting for the moment when they find us out. All we can do is hope that our luck holds. The greatness of Bond is not that he prevails in spite of his weaknesses. He prevails because of his weaknesses. That is what makes him a hero of our time - and of everybody else's time.

#### Art broken

WHENEVER television crews trample across the drawbridge of the once serene Saltwood Castle, poor Alan Clark is cursed with rotten luck. Only last month the delightful old boy was forced to attend court to defend the honour of his rottweiler, Leni, who was accused of having given a BBC cameraman a "warning nip". Since then a rival television station has been summoned to Kent to film the

insightful musings of the venerable MP. This time it was Clark's turn to suffer. As the crew entered the drawing room, a hapless sound recordist dislodged a prized Degas 1 from its moorings. Clark froze in horror as the work — bought by his father, the keen collector Lord Clark -- crashed to the floor. The glass frame shattered into a

thousand pieces with shards embedding themselves in the canvas. adding a modernist touch to the Impressionist sketch. To his credit, Clark recovered his sang-froid and picked up the pieces. Urgent renovation work could repair the picture, he concluded. Rather than sue



the station. Clark has decided to claim on his insurance. The grovelling crew had one further obstacle to negotiate on their way out: two very cross rottweilers.



"Sorry gentlemen, not without closer ties"

Hague's Christmas card has landed gently on the doormat of Diary Towers. It depicts William Pitt the Younger, of course. He became Prime Minister at 24.

● A BOLD allusion: William

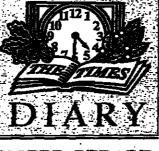
#### Chain reaction THIS is a sombre little tale. A sap-

ling planted in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, by her sister, Lady Jane Fellowes, has been ripped up. The tree was put to earth in a quiet ceremony at the Young England Kindergarten, where the Princess worked before she married Prince Charles. Within 48 hours it had been torn out and thrown over the school fence. So the principal, Kay King, has replanted it - and chained it to railings in case the vandals return. "I hope that will protect it," she says, "but your guess is as good as mine."

• THE greatest living Italian. Luciano Pavarotti, does not travel well. He has been snubbed by the Barbados Opera Festival run by Johnny Kidd, Beaverbrook's grandson and Jodie's father. The

OLD TIMES

WHEN Tory Treasurer Lord McAlpine was not so keen on state funding of political activity: "That can only lead to corruption and a further afteration of the public from politicians and their parties, who will be seen to have their noses in the public trough." (1995)



JASPER GERARD

tenor — who will be on the island this spring anyway - had topped the bill last March, but Kidd was unimpressed. "It was not a financial bonanza. Pavarotti's people were a nightmare. They would agree to do something and then not do it. The whole thing was very



Johnny's girl: Jodie Kidd

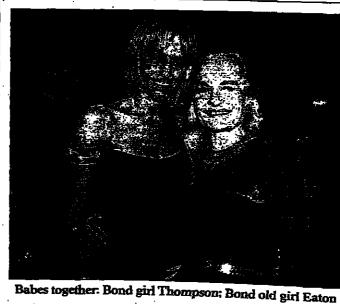
difficult." So who have the Kidds got instead? "Porgy and Bess, with a band called the Desperados."

#### Straw poll

AFTER the dust-up over lone par-ents, Jack Straw faced a personal parental rebellion this week. The Home Secretary is chairman of governors at London's Pimlico School and this week, standing for re-election, was opposed by two firebrands. They accused him of having a "hidden political agenda" - a Tory one. An opponent, Michael Ball, accused Straw of wanting the school "knocked down rather than refurbished". Labour has stuck with the Tory policy of using private finance to build schools. Critics said childrens' interests were threatened. Straw rejected the grumbles and romped home.

● THE UBS/SBC Warburg merger, with its loss of 3,000 jobs, is grim news for John Major. His old chum, the mercurial Lord Garel-Jones, a UBS director, was rumoured to have lined up the chairmanship for him. But now...

NEW TIMES TELETUBBIES are heading for. the sewers. Southern Water complains that suddlers are shoving toys (often belonging to siblings) down loos. "Once it was ninja turtles jamming our pipes, now we have teleloc man. 🖖



PARTY TIMES

NOSTALGIA for an earlier Bond era whistled through the draughty, cavernous marquee that enveloped Bedford Square for the sumptuous post-premiere party of Tomorrow Never Dies. While the agent's co-stars murmured approval for Pierce Brosnan, all agreed that Connery remains the master. Cecile Thompson, the new

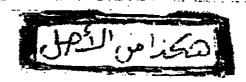
film's überbabe, is a particular admirer. She told Shirley Eaton, the gilded girl in Goldfinger, that she was "so lucky to have worked with Sean — he will always be Bond for me," before

tactfully adding that "Pierce has come very close". Eaton concurred. Among the old-timers were Shirley Bassey ("Where's Pierce" I'm going if he's not here") and Desmond Llewellyn, still delightful as gaddag moight. still delightful as gadget-meister "Q". So how did 007 think the film had gone down? "I was in the Ivy. I've seen it already."

Oddly, Michael Cole,

Mohamed Al Fayed's well-

groomed supplicant, was whooping it up: Mohamed has been a friend of the producers since he lent them an oil tanker for The Spy Who Loved Me, where it swallows a submarine."



The name

Ham Bames

Differing lifestyles

Sir, Mr Martin Pawley (letter, Decem-

ber 8) states that "new country life hin-

ges on private transport and electron-

ic communications. Both are improv-

ing all the time". I would like to state

In the various studies of rural depri-

vation carried out in the last decade.

the analysis inevitably shows that

those who suffer most from the

decline in rural services are those who

don't have private transport, cannot afford or do not have access to public

transport and who often subsist on an

old age pension after a lifetime of low-

paid employment in "traditional"

They are also, sadly, one of the most

neglected and hidden elements of

rural society, precisely because the articulate and wealthy who enjoy

"new country life" have no need of the

services (local shops, public transport,

low-cost housing) which these people

have to rely on and therefore do not

complain when the services dis-

appear.
Rural poverty and deprivation often

exist in close proximity to those enjoy-ing a wealthy lifestyle, in a way not

found in the urban context. Unfortu-

nately, this only serves to mask the

extent of deprivation, since survey

data (of incomes, private car owner-

ship, etc) will inevitably reflect the fact

that many rural areas contain dispro-

portionately wealthy people.

One of the saddest facts of modern

rural life is the inability of those who

live alongside deprivation either to

recognise it or to work to overcome it.

Rural Stress Information Network,

Sir, An elderly beneficiary of life in

Biddestone, Wiltshire, I challenge

your report of December 4. Car-less

since 1988, my husband and I are far

from being "prisoners in the village,

unable to buy so much as a news-paper or a loaf of bread".

Our four buses a week give access to

Chippenham and Bath as well as Cor-

sham, and two hours in Corsham on

market day is scarcely "just enough time to buy a loaf of bread". Addition-

ally, volunteer drivers of Village Link

cover shopping as well as medical

appointments, and neighbours give

Just as the parish churches have

gained from grouping, so will the

children who meet those from other

villages at the new school in Yatton

True, we have no candlestick-

makers, but the candle of community

Biddestone, Chippenham SNI4 7DG.

Sir, Mr Pawley writes from The Old

Rectory. This address, along with The

Old Post Office, The Old School

House, The Old Brewery and The Old

Forge, serves to illustrate the decline

of our villages as living and working

communities, and their sad conse-

quent dependence on the neighbour-

ing towns for employment, entertain-

Keynell two miles away.

Yours faithfully.

St Peter's House,

ment and emporia.

JOHN COPELAND.

Burton-by-Lincoln LNI 2RD

johncopeland@clara.net

Yours faithfully.

December 8.

burns brightly in our villages.

RUTH St BARBE MARSH.

From Mr John Copeland

Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park CV8 2LZ.

From Mrs J. E. B. Marsh

Yours faithfully,

NICK READ

December 8.

(Director).

rural iobs.

in rural society

From the Reverend Nick Read

the case for old country life.



#### **BLAIR'S X FACTOR**

Defeat in a battle that should never have been joined

This weekend's Luxembourg summit could and should have been one of Britain's happier encounters with the tangled politics of the European Union. The main business before this European Council was enlargement to the East, a cause long championed by this country. The decision to fix March 31 as the date to start negotiations with the five Central European front-runners, expected today, promised to puff the sails of the British presidency beginning next month and add substance to Tony Blair's claims to leadership within Europe. Instead, entirely through their own fault, Mr Blair and his Chancellor retreat from Luxembourg as the familiar "born losers" of Euro-diplomacy.

The cause of their very public humiliation was their insistence on picking a fight they could not win, in a battle of no importance, over Britain's "right" to be admitted to an economic talking shop with no formal powers and not even, as yet, a proper name. The argument was over whether Britain, as a non-EMU country, should have a seat as of right at the planned Euro-X club of EMU finance ministers - the X will be filled in when it is known how many countries join the first wave - which is supposed to smooth out disagreements over the work-

ings of EMU on a purely informal basis. France, whose brainchild it is, would admittedly like this group to develop into a serious political counterweight to the future European central bank. But as Messrs Blair and Brown well know, Germany and the Dutch want it to become no such thing. Since Britain agrees with these two important players that nothing must be permitted to undermine the treaty-based authority of Ecofin, the formal finance ministers' council of all EU members, the last thing the Government should have made a fuss about was the quite reasonable objection that unless and until it joins EMU, Britain had no automatic rights in an EMU-only club.

Mr Blair's most elegant, and effective attitude would have been a polite, almost Gallic shrug. At the very least, once the Chancellor had been humiliatingly rebuffed in Brussels earlier this month, Mr Blair should have known better than to stake on this issue all the EU political credits he has been carefully amassing over the past year. Instead, rejecting the various face-saving fudges on offer, he swept into the summit yesterday declaring that "we've got to be there", spent a fruitless morning interrupting everybody and failed to achieve his objective. Some sugar was added to the

recipe, but fudge remained on the menu. If Mr Blair thought that personal charisma would prevail, the scathing com-mentary on his "over-excited" performance, coming not only from the French but from the Germans and his Dutch friends, will have been a rude shock. It was, the Germans pityingly remarked, a fuss about nothing.

Mr Blair has wasted firepower he should have reserved for important battles down the road. The worst of it is that in the process, he has boosted the symbolic importance of a body that it is in Britain's interest to downgrade.

The imminent British presidency falls at a time of genuinely momentous decisions over EMU and over enlargement, where the hard part begins only now. The unwise decision to include Cyprus in the first round of new applicants risks a came in the EU's already strained relations with Turkey, an important Western ally. Mr Blair has rightly argued for a Europe of large horizons, and for summits which lift their eyes from petty institutional squabbles to the securing of Europe's peace and prosperity. This was just the sort of pettifogging dispute that he scorns and he should not have been trapped into it. The hope must be that having caught, so early, a case of EU-disease, the experience will immunise him against a relapse.

#### THE VALUES OF THE HEART

A call to support the example of Philip Lawrence

It was only two years ago this month that Philip Lawrence, an inspirational headmaster in one of the capital's neglected corners, became a victim of one of its lost youths. He was, in the moving words of his widow Frances, "stabbed through the heart by a young man who had never learnt the values of the heart". Mrs Lawrence was celebrated those values. Young people whose own sense of citizenship had been brought to the attention of the Home Office were honoured with awards which commemorate the life and beliefs of Philip Lawrence. The winners had not set out to secure recognition for their individual acts of community spirit but the acknowledgement of their work both commemorates the past and encourages for the future.

Yesterday's awards were the first in a competition which the Home Secretary hopes will become part of "the fabric of our national life" but their continuance will require support from beyond the State. The Home Office is looking for private sponsorship to extend and entrench the awards scheme. It is entirely appropriate that awards which celebrate communal effort and the re-stitching of civil society should be sustained by a spirit of voluntarism.

As a headmaster, Philip Lawrence chose to work in a school where deprivation and the demands of reaching out to different cultures called for special qualities from the staff. He proved himself an exceptional leader, and led by example. A quiet authority and firm Catholic faith enabled him to impress on his pupils, raised in a culture of dutiless rights, the importance of boundaries, the value of effort and a respect for others and for a moral code. His brutal murder, stabbed as he went to the aid of one of his own pupils, was a tragic testament to his own greatness of spirit. His example inspired his widow, Frances,

to campaign against the causes of the violence which claimed her husband. Her words helped move legislators to action and one of the fruits was the award scheme inaugurated yesterday. The idea of the last speaking yesterday at a ceremony which. Home Secretary, Michael Howard, it has been enthusiastically supported by his successor, Jack Straw. The award winners recognised yesterday have all shown something of the purpose, creativity, regard for their neighbours and unaffected moral sense which Philip Lawrence cherished in his pupils and which are the mark of the good citizen. Enterprises like the South London vouth radio station Fundamental FM prove that there need be nothing pious about citizenship. Involvement with it, and the other projects honoured, provide the young people recognised yesterday with an enjoyment far more enduring than the empty life of the streets led by the gang members who found themselves in court after the murder of Mr Lawrence.

The private sector should need no incentive other than a regard for the health of our shared society to ensure that other young people's efforts continue to be rewarded. It would, however, be in line with the best evolving corporate practice. New enterprises such as the company Good Business have recently been established to harness private sector giving in a manner which is socially useful and effective in business terms. Philip Lawrence's sacrifice and values should not be forgotten and the more who can commit themselves to supporting the ideals of good citizenship, the more effective the commemoration of his powerful example.

#### ARISE, SIR TOM

Stoppard is the playwright who makes mortality immortal

Honours are most satisfying when they reward those who make us laugh and crypreeminently the knights errant - and aberrant - of the theatre. Most of our equestrian Thespians are, however, actors; playwrights are likely to be honoured belatedly if at all. Apart from those histrionic prodigies who, like Noel Coward, are equally at home as writers and performers, dramatists tend to be recognised in their dotage: not the Sir. Lancelots, but the Don Quixotes of the stage.

Now, though, we shall have to get used to Sir Tom Stoppard, who was knighted yesterday. Never was a chevalier more chivalrous; never was a dramaturgical personage more modest. At a London Library lecture last month, Sir Tom's earlier journalistic career was recalled by the historian John Grigg, who remembered that his wedding more than 30 years ago had been reported with unusual acuity by a local reporter from Bristol Looking up the cutting, he discovered that the byline was Tom Stoppard's - his first, as it turned out.

Born in the Czech town of Zlin as Tom Straussler (he later adopted his mother's surname), his childhood was spent in Singapore and India before his parents moved to England after the war. It was only very recently that he discovered by accident that he was partly Jewish. The combination of Central Europe and the British Empire has proved a potent one.

From his first big hit, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (1967), he brought an intellectual intensity, anarchic wit and heightened linguistic consciousness to the British stage which had no precedent. Here was a playwright who could turn unpromisingly rebarbative subjects - minor characters in Hamlet, analytical philosophy, a trivial lawsuit involving James Joyce into popular classics. The allusive virtuosity that is Stoppard's hallmark has not prevented him from defying theatrical gravity: the lightness of his beings is never unbearable.

Since his rise in the 1970s, Stoppard has kept his preeminent status while taking risks to explore new realms. His latest play, The Invention of Love, depicts A. E. Housman and Oscar Wilde. The lives of scholars. even great ones, are rarely exciting; and there seems no dramatic contest between the repressed author of A Shropshire Lad and the martyr of Reading Gaol. Yet Stoppard has improbably succeeded in turning Housman into a more tragic and likeable figure than Wilde himself. It was a typically daring stroke to have portrayed Housman both in youth and in old age. Stoppard himself is now sixty, and though he still looks ten years younger, he is no longer a lad who will never be old. But the playwright is there to render mortality immortal and immortality mortal. We have no greater practitioner of that art than Sir Tom.

From Mr Michael J. Sant

**Tessas and Peps** 

Sir. Would it not be more sensible to retain the Pep, albeit capped but rather higher than £50,000, and replace the Tessa with a flexible, lowcost scheme incorporating elements of the (sa (letters, December 6) relevant and helpful to the lower paid?

The Pen has evolved over the years and is now well understood as an investment vehicle. Why change it? Doing so will lead to confusion and justifiable charges of retrospective taxation.

Yours faithfully, MIKE SANT. 21 The Street. Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7BW. michaelsant@lineone.net December 7.

From Mrs Diane Weitz

Sir, As I understand it, people starting a new isa in April 1999 will be entitled to put in contributions over their lifetime of £50,000.

Investors who currently hold Peps and Tessas are only allowed to transfer £50,000 of their existing invest-ments to the new Isa account. Much of this will be due to growth, particularly in relation to Peps which have been held for a number of years.

if a restriction on contribution is necessary then Pep and Tessa holders should, at the very least, be able to transfer funds with an initial contribution of £50,000 excluding growth.

Yours faithfully, DIANE WEITZ, 81 Hatherley Road, Cheltenham GL51 6EG. diane.weitz4@virgin.net December 8.

From Mr D. C. Hawley

Sir, I write as one of the 300,000 / 750,000 in some bewilderment as to why the true number of those affected by the proposed Isa limit cannot be ascertained.

Each time I have purchased a Pep I have been obliged to supply my national insurance number. In my naivety I had assumed that the Pep provider passed this on to the Inland Revenue. Am I wrong?

Yours faithfully, D. C. HAWLEY, 2 Peacefield, Marple, Stockport SK6 7QQ. December 11.

Weekend Money letters, page 63

#### Aerospace 'assets'

From the Director General of The Society of British Aerospace Companies Ltd

Sir, In your review of the National Register of Assets, published by the Treasury (details, November 25), you state that "Investment in aircraft projects has failed to reap dividends." You might have added, "yet".

Although the level of government financial support for the projects you named is correct, it is not in the form of grants but repayable, interestbearing loans with royalties on subsequent sales.

The A320 Airbus is, as reported, close to repaying the original loan, but in addition Her Majesty's Government will continue to receive some payment over the lifetime of the aircraft. Orders for the high-value A330 and A340 currently stand at 409; as sales revenue builds on aircraft and Rolls-Royce engines, returns on the Government's investment will accrue.

Industry projections suggest that on current aerospace orders there will be over £600 million returned to HMG by the year 2000 across this invest-ment portfolio.

DAVID MARSHALL Director General. The Society of British Aerospace Companies Ltd, Duxbury House, 60 Petty France, Victoria, SWIH 9EU. December 4.

#### **English cuisine**

From Mr Kit Chapman

Yours faithfully,

Sir. For *The Times* to devote a long news feature (November 29), two leading articles (November 29 and December 4), and substantial space in its correspondence columns (December to the subject of English food ranks as an editorial landmark.

However, satisfying as it may be to see this country rediscover an appetite for some of its traditional recipes, as a nation we still remain pathetically squeamish in some departments of the gastronomic arts.

One of our specialities, Bath chaps (pigs cheeks), failed to sell as advertised until we redefined the same recipe on the menu as braised pork. It is now a best seller. Yours etc.

KIT CHAPMAN (Author, Great British Chefs, Mitchell Beazley, 1989 and 1995), The Castle Hotel Castle Green, Taunton TAI INF. December & .....

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(December 5).

Sir, I read with dismay the letters

you published under the heading "Anger over latest ban on beef"

My brother, Chris Warne, died of

new variant CJD on October 20. Any-

one who had witnessed his deteri-

oration and death would find it hard

to sustain such moral indignation

over their "right" to eat beef on the

Chris may have been only the

twenty-second person to die of this disease, but many thousands of others

may already have been infected, their

symptoms not yet evident because of

When we come to realise the true extent of this disease won't we then be

asking why so little was done so late to

Sir, It is claimed that we have a lis-

tening government. Please will it lis-

Our local butcher sells only organic

meat. The beef he sells comes from a

Scottish herd which has never had

contact with BSE and is processed by

an abattoir known personally to the

If beef on the bone is to be

banned, the farmers, abattoirs and

butchers producing and selling or-

ganic beef will be penalised for doing

everything right. And their customers will be denied the right to support

This is clearly unjust.

6 Bovingdon Road, SW6 2AP. December 9.

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN,

Sir. A ship is its ship's company. Bri-

tannia has been a centre of excellence

because of the quality of the people

who have served on board. With the

crew departed, all that is left is a soul-

less steel relic, not even worth a place

Princess Anne and Lord Callaghan

of Cardiff (letter, December II) are

sunk, and the sooner the better.

Foundry House, Kingsley, Bordon GU35 9LY. December 11.

Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships

Yours faithfully, JUDITH JACKSON,

in a museum.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD SHARPE,

Editor. Jane's Fighting Ships.

the long incubation period.

Yours faithfully, ANGELA NEATH,

108 Northwood Lane.

Darley Dale DE42HS.

From Ms Judith Jackson

ten to me.

I Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

#### Confusion on Isas, Ban on beef by 'ministerial nannies' From Mrs Angela Neath

From Dr A. W. Holmes

Sir, If we accept the latest advice from the Ministry of Agriculture that the risk of CJD from beef on the bone is unacceptable, we have to recognise that nothing that we eat is safe.

In the early 1970s I gave a lecture on this theme to the Institute of Food Science and Technology. I exaggerated the results of "scientific" experiments, extrapolating them unrealistically. I had to rely on microbiology and heart disease to demolish beef then: the task would today be much easier. I suggested that oranges, and indeed all fruit and vegetables, were unsafe because experiments claimed to demonstrate that Vitamin C can induce genetic mutation. The concentrations used in such experiments were so high that the results are totally irrelevant. but no one has ever demonstrated unequivocally that it is safe.

It is, in fact, impossible to prove that anything is safe: vegetables contain many natural toxins, often at high levels, but we go on eating them with only occasional problems.

There are, however, some areas where the evidence is unambiguous. Hundreds of people, particularly the young and the elderly, are regularly killed by microbial food poisoning. This is only reported when there is a particularly dramatic outbreak.

You correctly suggest that our ministerial nannies are taking more treats off the menu. I suggest that they would do better to look to the real risks and tackle microbial infection throughout the distribution chain. banning such things as soft cheese from unpasteurised milk if necessary. This may be less newsworthy and politically less dramatic, but the public benefit would be significant.

Yours sincerely, A. W. HOLMES (President, Institute of Food Science and Technology, 1995-97), i Tanners Dean, Leatherhead KT22 8RU.

#### Yacht and youth Body and soul

From Mrs Elizabeth Gould

Sir, Having just watched on television the magnificent and moving cere-mony of decommissioning the Royal Yacht Britannia, an enduring symbol of British craftsmanship, pride and history, I can't help but compare it with today's front-page picture of Chris Evans and Zoe Ball leaving a celebrity party (one of several) held at 10 Downing Street by new Labour,

I certainly know which I'd prefer

my taxes to go towards. Yours sincerely, E. A. GOULD, Globetrotter, Lower Plantation, Loudwater. Rickmansworth WD3 4PQ. December 11.

#### Defamation law

From Mr Richard Parkes

Sir, Mr George Stern's lament (letter, December 3) that "now even imprisoned rapists can sue for libel those who seek the help of the authorities" seems to imply that some anomalous rule of defamation law has sanctioned this controversial litigation. This may have given a misleading impression.

With limited exceptions (vexatious litigants are an example), everyone, even a convicted criminal, is entitled to access to the courts. In this case the defendant tried unsuccessfully to strike out the plaintiff's claim by arguing that a defence of absolute privilege was bound to succeed. The principle that an order striking out a claim will be made only where an action is

bound to fail (and the Court of Appeal held that this was not such a case) makes excellent sense and applies to civil litigation generally.

Qualified privilege is a complete defence for anyone who speaks his mind honestly to the authorities, even if mistaken; the wider the scope of the immunity conferred by absolute privilege, the greater the risk that it will be abused by the unscrupulous.

reports, the defendant's prospects of successfully defending the claim on the basis of qualified privilege remain

Yours faithfully, RICHARD PARKES. 5 Raymond Buildings Gray's Inn. WCIR 5BP. richardparkes@compuserve.com

#### Korea's 'disgrace'

From Mr James Kirkham

Sir, The media here in South Korea are portraying their current economic difficulties as being equivalent to the National Day of Disgrace" in 1905, when the country was forcibly annexed by the Japanese. The Korean people are now, apparently, under a period of "economic colonisation" which can be solved, and could have been avoided, if hardworking Korean people hadn't rewarded themselves r their efforts with a bottle of Scottish malt or an Italian dress.

It would seem that international trade is fine — as long as it is other nations buying Korean goods. Labour and civil organisations are threatening disruption to prevent the implementation of the IMF package, thus carrying on the tradition of burying heads in the sand and hoping the problem will go away.

For 40 years the politicians, bureau crats and businessmen of South Korea have imported as much knowhow and experience as was necessary to develop their own manufacturing industries, based on established West ern models. Why are they so unwilling to import similarly proven methods for their finance industries?

Yours etc. JAMES KIRKHAM, Hyundai Apt 101-1005, No Du Ri 1154, Wando-Eup, Wando-Gun, Chonnam 537-800, South Korea. wandojames@yahoo.com December 6.

Oaths of allegiance

Sir, I was sorry to see my old friend

Keith Kyle repeat the myth that Char-ies Bradlaugh, MP, was excluded

from Parliament between 1880 and

1886 because "he would not swear on

the Bible" [letter, December 4: also let-

ter. December 6]. On the contrary he

expressed himself consistently ready

to do so; indeed on several occasions

tried to do so; and it was the combined

votes of Liberals as well as Conserva-

tives who did not wish to see a militant

atheist among their ranks that pre-

vented a duly elected MP from taking

Ashdown House, Avebury SN8 1RF.

his seat for five and a half years.

LUDOVIC KENNEDY.

December 5.

#### Single mothers From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

From Mrs Verney Sergeant

Sir, Of purely academic interest, you will understand - but what name was given to all those mothers (letters, December 9) left without husbands for the duration of both world wars? How did they manage without "kids' clubs", creches, etc? Did they whinge their way through every news broadcast, or did they, as I suspect, get on with it stoically, without most of today's "necessities"?

Thank God that they were made of sterner stuff. Yours faithfully,

VERNEY SERGEANT. 70 Ravenswood Drive. Solihull B9i 3LP. donandverney@compuserve.com December 11.

In so far as one can judge from the

#### Court manners From the Reverend Ian Gregory

Sir. I am disheartened by your frontpage story (December 9) that Tim Henman has taken lessons on court manners from John McEnroe, and intends now to snarl his way to the top by being more aggressive.

Admittedly there is public taste for nasty behaviour, and if we are now denied public executions we will watch violent films and applaud the likes of McEnroe. But success achieved at the cost of civilised behaviour is worth very little.

Old-fashioned it may be, but Grantland Rice was pointing the way forward to man's continuing evolution when he wrote in 1941: For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name. He writes - not that you won or lost — but how you played the Game.

Yours etc. IAN GREGORY (Founder, Campaign for Courtesy), 18 The Avenue, Basford, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 OLY. December 9.

#### Worm's eye view

From Mr P. W. Grafton

Sir, How odd that excrement should lead to an increment in the supposed evolutionary period (report, December !!).

Yours faithfully, P. W. GRAFTON. 57 Padbrook. Limpsfield, Oxted RH8 0DZ December II.

to 1pm lephone ded the ae name dability. varks of #1 6XL.

jh.



#### **COURT CIRCULAR**

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 12: The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Fleet, today
visited HMS Ocean at GEC Marine
VSEL Barrow Shipyard, Barrow-inFurness, Cumbria.
The Prince of Wales, on behalf of

The Prince of Wates, on benail of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning. Her Majesty was represented by the Reverend Canon John Sykes

(Chaplain to the Queen) at the Funeral of the Reverend Canon lan Knox (Chaplain to The Queen) which was held in St Peter's Parish Church. Huddersfield, this afternoon.

riugoersneid, inis aniemoon.
Sir Edward Ford (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit) this morning, on behalf of The Queen, presented the Lord Denning with the (nsignia of a Member of the Order of Merit).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 12: The Princess Royal.
President. The Princess Royal Trust
for Carers, this morning visited
Holyhead Carers Outreach. Holyhead Centre, Kingsland, Holyhead.
Anglesey, and was received by Her
Majesty's Lord-Licutenant of Gwynedd (Mr Meuric Rees).

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon launched the Carers Support Initiative with the Samaritans at Gwynedd Carers Centre, Plord Deiniol, Bangor. ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 12: The Prince of Wales. President this afternoon attended a ceremony at the Limelight Club, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WI, to launch The Prince's Trust Millennium Awards to groups of young people involved in community projects throughout the United King-

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 12: The Princess Margaret Counter to the Video Magazer, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Kenneth MacMillan Choreo-graphic Competition at the Royal Ballet School. White Lodge, Richmond Park.

ST JAMES'S PALACE December 12: The Duke of Kent. Chancellor, the University of Surrey, this afternoon presided at the conferment of degrees ceremony. Guildford, Surrey.

#### Patron

The Prince of Wales has become Patron of the Royal Television Society.

#### School news Salisbury Cathedral School

Mr Robert Thackray, BSc. has been appointed Headmaster of Salisbury Cathedral School from April 1998. Mr Thackray is cur-rently Headmaster of St James' Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School, Bury St Edmunds.

#### Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Sir Thomas Dunne, Lord-Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester, is to be Lord-Lieutenant for the separate counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire on the forma-tion of those counties on April I.

#### Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

Professor Michael Hebbert. Professor of Town Planning, Manchester University, has been awarded the commission's 1997 Fellowship in the Built Environ ment. He will study "Urbanism".

#### Luncheon

Australia & New Zealand

Chamber of Commerce UK Sir Martin Laing, Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Australian & New Zealand Chamber of Com merce UK held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's, Mr Brian Harris, presided,

The High Commissioner for New Zealand and the Executive Director of the Swire Group were among those present.

#### Memorial services

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Joyce Lady Heathcoat Amory (Joyce Wethered), golfer, was held yesterday at St Peter's, Tiverton, The Rev Anthony Gibson officiated. Sir lan Heathcoat Amory, nephew, and Mrs David Cavender, niece, read the lessons. Countess Cairns. cousin, read from An Englishwoman's Garden and Mr David Heathcoat

Amory, MP, gave an address, Among others present were Brigadier Roderick Heathcoal Amory brother-in-law), Lady (lan) Heathcoat Amory, Mr William Heathcoat Amory. Amory, Mr William Heathcoat Amory, Mr Harry Heathcoat Amory, Mr Pairick Heathcoat Amory, Mr And Mrs Charles Heathcoat Amory, Mr Simon Charles Heathcoat Amory, Mr Simon Heathcoat Amory, Mr Toby Heathcoat Amory, Mr David Cavender, Mrs David Heathcoat Amory, Lady Beck, Mrs Harmony Heathcoat Amory, Lady

David Heathcoal Amony, Lady Jacomb. Lady Spearman. Sir Jack Boiles (a)sio representing the Director-General. National Trust) and Lady Anne Boiles. National Trust) and Lady Anne Boiles, Sir John and Lady Palmer, Mr and Mrs Anthony Goodall. Mr and Mrs Michael Hickson. Mr Dudley Dodd, representatives of the Royal North Devon Golf Club, Royal St George's Golf Club, Devon County Golf Union, the Ladies Golf Union, the English Ladies Golf Union, the English Ladies Golf Union, the English Ladies Golf Club. Worling Ladies Golf Association. Worling Golf Club. Surrey Ladies Golf Association. West Surrey Golf Club. Tiveron Golf Club. Worplesdon Golf Club. St Andrews, the Royal Andrewis Control Club. St Andrews, the Royal Andrewis Colf Williams of Club. St Andrews, the Royal Andrewis Colf Williams.

John Wimber A celebration of the life and ministry of John Wimber, International Direcfor of Vineyard Churches, was held vesterday in Westminster Central Hall. The Rev John Mumford, National Director of the Association of Vineyard Churches in the United Kingdom and Ireland, Mr Gerald Coates. Leader of Pioneer People, Mr Roger Forster, Leader of Ichthus Churches, the Rev Sandy Millar, Churches. the Rev Sandy Millar, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Brompton, the Right Rev David Pytches, Mr Terry Virgo, Leader of New Frontiers Churches, Mr Mike Pilavachi, Lead-

er of Soul Survivor Youth Church Watford, and Mr Charles Whitehead, Lay Head of Roman Catholic Charismatic Renewal, paid tribute.

Mr Alan Harper
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress
amended a service of thanksgiving for
the life of Mr Alan Harper, immediare past Chairman of the Ballot
Embarca held antitodes as the Exchange, held yesterday at the Church of St Katharine Cree. Leadenhall Street.

The Rev Hugh Rom, Chaplain to the Baltic Exchange, officiated, Mrs Selina Porter, daughter, and Mr Nigel Brook of Andre (UK) read the lessons. Miss Carol Harper, daughter, read Crossing the Bar by Alfred Lord Tennyson. Mr Eric Shawyer, Chairman of the Baltic Exchange. present were:

#### **Dinners**

London University
The Princess Royal, Chancellor of London University, with Lord Woolf, Pro-Chancellor, and Professor Graham Zellick, Vice-Chancellor, presided at a dinner held last night at Senate House to mark the anniversary of Foundation Day. Honorary degrees were conferred on Lord Annan, Chief Emeka Anyoaku, Lord Butterfield, Dame Felicity Lott, Sir Frank Kermode, FBA, and Mrs Mary Robinson. Among those present

were:
The Ambassador of the Republic of
Ireland, Lord Flowers, FRS, Baroness
Fookes, Sir James Black. Sir
Christopher France. Dame Beryl
Grey, Sir William Stubbs, Sir
Norman Wooding. Mr John
Davidson, Professor Roderick Floud.
Dr Malcolm Godfrey and Professor
Frank Gould.

Fan Makers' Company The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was entertained at a dinner of the Fan Makers' Company held last night at the Man-sion House. Mr Nicholas Crispin, Master, presided. Sir Peter Davis and Mr Michael Davis. Foreign Warden, also spoke. The Lord Mayor was presented with a cheque for the British Diabetic Association and the National Children's Homes, his joint charities, by the Master afterwards. Old Oundelian Club

Mr Richard Wilson, President of the Old Oundelian Club, presided at the annual London dinner held last night at the RAF Club. Mr David McMurray, Headmaster of Oundie School, and Mr John Holmes also spoke.

Westgate Chambers, Lewes The Chief Justice of Ireland and the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords attended the Tenth Anniversary Dinner of Westgate Chambers held on Saturday, December 6, at the Metropole Hotel, Brighton, Mr John Collins, Head of Chambers, was the host, Among others

was the host Among others present were: Judge Richard Brown (Resident Judge Richard Brown (Resident Judge In Chichester), Judge John Gower, Oc. Judge Haward, Judge Sont-Gall, Judge Lloyd, Judge Carney tof the Irish High Courd, Mr Christopher Clarke, OC, Mr John Aspinall, OC, Mr Paul Garlick, QC, and Mr Gerry Bermingham, MP.

#### Gray's Inn

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith has been elected Treasurer of Gray's Inn for 1998 in succession to Judge Esynthemis, QC. Mr Martin Collins. QC. has been elected Vice-Treasurer.

#### Elections

Lady Appleyard, Mr John R.H. Bond and Baroness Perry of Southwark have been elected Governors of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, Mr Tim Rix has been co-opted to its Board of

#### Appointment

Mr Karamjir Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Ethnic Minorities Advisory Committee, has been appointed to the Board of the Judicial Studies Board for two years from December 1.



Frances Ochoa and Julian de Bosdari, of Central London, who recently announced their engagement

#### Weekend birthdays

TODAY: The Aga Khan, 61; Sir Terence Beckett, former Director-General, CBI, 74; Sir Ross Belch, chairman, Almamara Shipping, 77; Mr Howard Brenton, play-wright, 55; General Arnold Brown, former international leader and eneral, Salvation Army, 84; Lord Bullock, 83: Sir Brian Fall, Principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. 60: Mr John Francome, racing commentator and former jockey, 45; Mr Walter Girven, former Chief Constable, Wiltshire, Mr Chris Gorringe, chief executive, All England Lawn Ten-nis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon. nis and Croquet Cuto, with bleody 52, Miss Anouska Hempel (Lady Weinberg), hotelier and designer, 56; Dr Douglas Latto, former chairman, British Safety Council, 84; Mr Robert Lindsay, actor. 48; Professor Sir William McCrea,

FRS, astronomer, 93; Mr Alec

Monk, former chairman, The Galeway Corporation. 55: Mr J.W.H. Morgan, former chairman, AMEC. 70; Sir Brian Pitman, banker, 66: Mr Christopher Plummer, actor, 68; Sir Humphrey Prideaux, former chairman, Morland and Company, 82; Lord Renwick of Clifton, 60; Mr George Shultz, former American Secretary of State, 77; Professor G.D. Sim former Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University, 71; Mr Bruce Steinberg, former chief executive officer, UK Gold Television, 41: Major-General Sir David Thorne, 64; General Sir Peter Whiteley, 77.

TOMORROW: Captain the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumont, 68; Professor Richard Cassilly, operatic tenor, 70; General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, 85; the Right Rev J.B.R.

Brisbane and Primate of Australia 78: Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, 82; Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt. actress, 62; Sir Malcolm McIntosh, civil servant, 52; Mr C.R. Morris, former MP, 71; Mr Alberto Morrocco, painter, 80; Sir John Osborn, former MP, 75; Dame Ruth Railton, founder, National Youth Orchestra, 82; Mr Stan Smith, former tennis player, SI; Sir Simon Towneley, former Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, 76; Miss Rosalyn Tureck, conductor, 83; Mr Peter Williams, rugby player, 37

Church in Wales The Rev Jessie Marguerite Tarie Carlyon, furmer Assistant Curate of Pontypool, to be Vicar of Pontypool.

#### Forthcoming marriages

RICHARD POHILE

and Miss S.L. Huckson The engagement is announced between Luciano Giovanni, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Giovanni Antoniazzi, of Crouch Hill, London, and Simone Louise, only daughter of Mr Derek Huckson, of West Wickham, Kent, and Mrs Sandra Huckson, of Dulwich.

Mr J.R. Banister and Miss N.J. Sizemith

The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Banister, of Westerham, Kent, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Spesmith, of Harps-

Mr J. Fordhan

and Miss E.M. Sanderson The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the late Mr Clifford Fordham and of Mrs Ruth Fordham, of Kempston, Bedfordshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs John of Oswaldtwistle. Lancashire

Mr A.J. Jones

and Miss K. Fraser The engagement is announced between Aaron, elder son of Mr and Mrs Barry Jones, of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire, and Karhryn, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Fraser, of Albury, NSW, Australia.

Mr O.J. Lane Fox and Miss Fl.S.C. Madden

The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr Martin Lane Fox and Mrs Prue Lane Fox, both of London, and Harriet, daughter of Mr Patrick Madden, of Kencot, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Cristina Madden, of Fulham.

Mr T. Horster and Ms L Borrell The marriage will take place inday at 4pm, at Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill, London, between

Tim. youngest son of Mr Paul Horsier and the late Rhonda Horsier, of Plymouth, Devon, and Laura, daughter of the late John Martin and of Mrs Harry John-son, of Boscombe, Dorset.

The bride will be given in marriage by her godfather. Mr Montgomery Moose, of Hudson Bay, Canada.

A reception will be held at 79 Dukes Avenue, Muswell Hill and the honeymoon will be spent in Dartmouth.

Mr A.P. Low and Miss J.E. Hutchings The engagement is announced between Adrian, second son of Mr and Mrs P.J.B. Low, of Dubai, UAE and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.B. Hutchings, of Rogate, West Sussex. Mr D.L.R. McCrae

and Miss P. Trounce The engagement is announced between Duncan, elder son of Dr AWR McCrae and Mrs J.M. McCrae, of Oxford, and Philippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Trounce, of Little Budworth,

Mr J.M. Nott and Miss L. Modder

The engagement is announced between Jonathan elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry Nott, of Priors Marston, Warwickshire, and Lucy. younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Julian Modder, of Foxhall, Suffolk.

Marriage

Mr H.G. Rhodes and Mrs M.E.C. Floyd The marriage took place quietly on November 28, in Sale, between Geoffrey Rhodes and Madeline

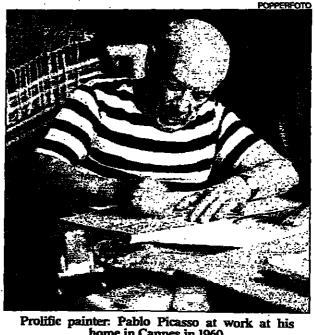
#### **Anniversaries**

TODAY - BIRTHS: William Drummond of Hawthornden, poet, Hawthornden, Lothian, 1585; Ernst von Siemens, electrical engineer. Lenthe, Germany, 1816; Balthazar Vorster, Prime Minister of South Africa 1966-78 and President 1978-79, Jamestown, 1915. DEATHS: Maimonides, philosopher, Egypt, 1204; Samuel Johnson, writer, critic and lexicographer, London, 1784; Robert John Strutt, 4th Baron Rayleigh, physicist, Terling Place, Essex, 1947. Abel Tasman discovered New Zealand, 1642.

The Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee were victorious at the Battle of Fredericksburg, 1862. Malta, GC, was proclaimed a

TOMORROW - BIRTHS: Nostradamus (Michel de Notredame), astrologer, Saint-Remy, 1503; Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of

Dundonald, Admiral, Annsfield, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, 1775: King George VI. reigned 1936-52. York Cottage, Sandringham, 1895; Paul Eluard, poet, Paris, 1895. DEATHS: Sir John Oldcastle. alleged heretic, "hung and burnt hanging". London. (417: King James V of Scotland. reigned 1513-42. Falkland, Fife, 1542; Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, Hamburg, 1788; George Wash-ington, 1st American President 1789-97, Washington, 1799; Albert, Prince Consort, Windsor Castle, 1861; George Hudson, the "railway king", London, 1871; Stanley Bal-dwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley. Prime Minister 1923-24, 1924-29 and 1935-37, Astley, Lancashire, 1947; Will Fyfe, character comedian, St Andrews, 1947; William Stim, 1st Viscount Slim, Field Marshal, Governor-General of Australia 1953-60, London, 1970. Roald Amundsen reached the



home in Cannes in 1960

From Charles Hargrove

PICASSO'S HEIRS WILL

SHARE £650M.

Paris, December 12 The settlement of the estate of Pablo Picasso. which was expected to take several years, will be completed in about three months. His heirs - his widow, Jacqueline, grandchildren, Marina and Bernard, and three natural children, Claude, Paloma and Maya, will share a fortune estimated at some 6,000m

francs (about E650m). Maître Pierre Zecri, the judicial admin-istrator of the estate, who has successfully concluded the negoriations conducted by counsel for the heirs, refuses to disclose the breakdown of the estate. Under French law the widow must receive a quarter of the total plus a quarter in trust, the grandchildren a quarter, and each of the three natural children a twelfth.

The drawings, paintings and sculptures which were inventoried in the painter's Studio after his death at Mougins in April, 1973, were insured for 3,000m francs during their transfer to Paris, and are deposited in the safes of

In addition to this, Picasso's fortune included two chateaux, two estates in Provence and

#### ON THIS DAY

#### December 13, 1975

Picasso was one of those comparatively rare artists whose pictures make a fortune during their own lifetime. Even so, his picture Le Rêve, which was bought for \$7,000 in 1941, sold last month for \$48.4 million.

shares and bank deposits which account for some 40 per cent of the total. His production was enormous, and, for each

of his 15,000 authenticated pictures, there are dozens of sketches worth themselves several tens of thousands of francs each. The tradesmen of Antibes, with whom he dealt, often forebore from cashing his cheques; the signature on them has proved worth between

In his drawers at Mougins were found wads of notes and cheques bound by elastic which he had forgotten to cash, for a total of 150,000 francs. One of the charwomen he employed is living very comfortably on the occasional sale

of sketches which he gave her from time to

Paul Picasso, the son of the painter, had received 800,000 francs as an advance on his share of the estate. He had bought a Rolls-Royce upholstered with leopard skins, for 350,000 francs, and blown almost all the rest by the time he died last July in hospital.

Marina, the daughter he had before his divorce from his first wife, Emilienne, became one of the heirs together with her half-brother Bernard. Her brother, Pablito, had committed suicide, by swallowing a dose of chlorine because he was not allowed to pay his respects to the remains of the painter.

The three natural children owe their share of the estate to the law of January, 1972, and to the long legal battle which they successfully fought to have their rights as heirs recognised. In order to ward off astronomic death duties,

Picasso bequeathed to the nation his personal collection of pictures, now in the Louvre, which includes two works by Le Nain, one by Chardin, one by Courbet, four by Corot, seven by Renoir, four by Douanier Rousseau, seven by Matisse, four by Cézanne, to mention only the most important. But if all the works of the master which his

heirs will divide among themselves were put on the market at the same time, there would inevitably be a dramatic fall in their value.

BIRTHDAYS

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

#### PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

### But you, my friends, must make your most sacred faith the foundation of your lives. Continue to pray in the power of the Huly Spirit. Jude years 20.

BIRTHS

BAILEY - On December 10th to Alexander and Cheryl, a son Assumer and Leary, a son
BARRETT - Andrew and
Deborah are delighted to
assume the birth of their
first child, Georgia May.
Georgia was born at
10.44pm on October 31st
1997 at Womens College
Hospital in Toronto. Both
families are overjoyed and
are eagerly awaiting
Georgia's first visit to
England in February.

BARRY - Anne (née Tully) and Kevin Barry are proud to announce the arrival in Eastbourne of Alexander George William on 11th December, A first mandehild December A first grandchild for William and Barbara Tully of Willand, Devon.

CLIVE - On December 7th at The Fortland Hospital, to Hosemary (née Moore) and Barry, a daughter, Ione. COLBOURNE - On 8th December, to Fenny (néc Whiting) and Eay, a daughter, Tallesen Bryber.

DERAMYA - On December 7th at the Chelses and Westminater Hospital, to Mandy (nés Davéy) and David, a son, james Ebstro, a brother for Max. FARREL - On November 24th at Greenwich Hospital, CT, USA, to Razen and John, a daughter, Isabella and a son,

SURYEL - On December 9th at The Portland Rospital, to Oya and Yigin, a son, Toiga Tugay, a brother for Tanya. HAWLEY - To Robert and Teresa (née Helbrook), a son, Stuart Kenneth Macdonald, on December 6th LELLO - On Tuesday 4th November 1997 at Salishrury District Hospital, to Halen (nés Simpson) and Marik, a son, Alexander Edward Henry John, a brother for Sebuntian.

Sebertian

LOMAS - On 11th December

1997 at Ulivval Hospital,
Oslo, to Gro (née
Christoffersen) and Hospi
John (Jack), a son,
Alexander, a brother for
Christina, Samantha,
Deborah and Victoria,
MORIEL-RANNOR - On December
5th 1997, to Cathedre (née
Morel) and Martin, a
daughter, Felicity Gisele
Marjotia. PROET! - On December 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Northo and Michael, a daughter, Zoe Marka.

daughter, zoo Marsan.
satoMET - On Documber 5th at
The Portland Hospital, to
Vered and Yousif, a
daughter, Danielle, a sister
for Aviel and Lyelle. SHOSE - On December 9th, to Gillian (noe Biellamp) and Sam, a son, Robert, a prother for Edward. TUCKER - On December 3rd to the RSCH, Guildford, to Alison (née Campbell) and Glies, twin sons, William Thomas Campbell and Hugo

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE

BELINSKI - josef with me in my heart, love you, keep safe joanna. **DEATHS** 

ATIGME - On December 10th 1997 peacefully at Baidgemen Rospital, Charles of Woolsbington (Ex Kenya Administration), much loved hesband of Jane, a loving father, grandfather and quest-cannifather and quest-cannifather.

DEATHS BROKE - Susan (note Bonney)
peacefully on 11th
December, belowed wife of
Robert, devoted mother of
Simon and Robin and much
loved mother-in-law and
grandmother. Cremation
private. Thanksgiving
Service at St Andrew's
Church, Holms Hale,
Norfolk, on Friday 19th
December at 11.30 am. No
flowers. Denations if desired
to Holms Hale Church may
be sent c/o W.K. Littleproud
& Son Frineral Directors.
Bradenham, Thetford,
Norfolk 1925 7QU

EURODEN - Paul Hanson, Intellace La Colonel R.R. and Burser of King's College, Taunton. Deed 10th December 1997 peacefully at home after a long and courageously fought buttle. Man of honour and deatly loved husband of Caroline and father of Francis and Philip. Pemeral at King's College Chapel, Taunton on Thursday 18th December at 1.30 pm. Parelly flowers only. Denations to St Margaret's Hospica, Taunton clo AW. Waterjohns & Son, Funeral Directors, Clare Street, North Petherton, Somensor TAG 62G.

CALLY - Shella peacefully in hospital on 10th December, lovingly missed by her family and many friends. Funeral Service at St Anne's, Ranstead, at 10.30 am Wednesday 17th December. Family flowers only. Donations to The Stella Rancock Daving Group clo Longhust, 8-10 Found Lans, Epsom, KT19 SKY.

CORRY-SREIN - Elspeth Clare died in Cambridge on 10th December 1997 peacefully in her sleep in her 80th year, only daughter of Frank Corry-Smith and Jessie Alice Corry-Smith (née Tamquary-Willaume) of Bedford. Good friend of Mangaset Boys of Swavesey and her brother. Fuberal Service at Fen Dusyton Church on Prichy 19th December 1997 at 4pm, followed by committed at Cambridge City Cremetorium. No flowers please but donations for Arthritis and Ebeumatham Council for Essenten may be sent to Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge CB4 3E.

aged 90 peacefully in Exter Hospital on Documber 12th. Much loved husband of Heide, father and grandfather Puneral private. grandfather Puneral purveys. Thanksgiving Service on January 21st at 12 noon at All Saints, Backenford,

GOSS - The Very hoverhald Thomas Ashworth (Tom) formerly Dean of Jersey passed peacefully away at the General Hospital, Jersey, on Wednesday 10th December 1997 aged 85 years. Beloved husband of the late Fat, much loved father of Simon and Je. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. By request no flowers, letters or cards please to H.W. Mailant & Som Ltd. Persent Directors, tel: (01634) 37291. LATOY - Agoes Matika tied peacefully at Bromley Hospital on 1st December aged 81. Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday Ich December at Beckenham Crematorium 130 pm.

LAWRENCE - Doris Eathleen.
On 10th December 1997
peacefully in hospital.
Beloved wife of John, much
loved mother of Derek and
Colin. Funeral 18th
December 1997 Ecunswick
Park Epad Committeen at
330 pm to which all friends
are respectfully havind. are respectfully invited.

PHILLIPS - Michael Arthur, peacefully in London on 11th December. Devoted father of Sarah, Christopher and Emma, gandfather of Anthony, lonathan, Harry and Kity, Remembered with love by all who knew him. Funcial Service at Chelses. Old Church at 11 am on Friday 19th December. Private family crehation afterwards. Family Howers only, Dounttons, if desired, to Cancer Relief Macmilian Pund. All sequicies to JR. Kenyon (0171) 937-0757.

ROSE - Rita Way died passetully on 9th Dacember 1997 at Guy's Hospital, London, after a short filmest bravely bonne, Commation at Vinters Park Crematorium, Madestona, Kent, on Monday 22nd December 1997 at 12 noon, Flowers or donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses of LR, Sills Feneral Directors, Kenwood High Street, Czanbrook, Kent.

December 1997 at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sideup, Alan Witterick, widower of Alan Whitarick, midowar of much loved Joy, beloved husband of Sue, father of Robin, Jill and John, grandfather of Joiyon, Phillip, James, Olivin, Christopher and Charile. Christopher and Charile. Funeral at Hitham. Cressayorum on Priday 19th December at 11.15 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Abriebner's Disease Society (Bromley Branch) clo W. Uden & Bons, Juneral directors, High Street, Sidoup, Kent.

THORP - Jean Norma peacefully at the Ecyal Marsden Hospital on 11th December after a long Gener Research Fund.

URWINI - Alan Charles Bell
died suddenly in hospital
after a short Blees, beloved
humberd of Joan, father of
Michael and Judith, fatherin-law of John and Ros,
grandfather of Stanon, Mck,
Robbie and Kirstie. Service
at Mortisles Crematorium at

st Mortlabe Crematorium at 2 pm en Friday 19th December. Family flowers only please. Domations in memory to Chest. Heart and Stoke Association. Wist - Patrick Reginald. Peacefully in the West Cornwall Respiral on 7th December 1997. Nuch loved husband of Marjoris, father and grandfather. Private funeral. There will be a Memorial Service in the spring. IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE

EDELMAN - Maurice Edelman MP. Remembered devotedly on December 14th and every day with gantitude and pride by his wife Tilli and daughters Sonia and Natasha. SPON-SMITH - On 10th LEGN - Sir john (Uncle jack) died 13th December 1992. Remembered with love and affection. Cherie and Richard. UBRELOHDE - Paul F.E.S. Esmembered and missed Grimstead SP5 3ET. BIRTHDAYS

CURREY M Post Soldier School master, born 14th December 1907. Computation Relphi SERVICES WANTED BOCKLEY March, & Dawn, urtisty whose plottures with sold in early 1970's in Heals Gallery, Does sayons know of their pla-nates or whitesboards Replay D Callington, The Hotne, Victor HELP! Young gentlemen requirements from the to complete Fernish

> TICKETS FOR SALE atre Casis, Jamiroqual, Woller, Bustry, Sport 0171 490 6183 FOR SALE

studies at Glasgow University.
In the first instance planes context A C S McCornell at C & H feffenson Solicines Tel 01232 329545

A SHTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superhity presented Presphene 0800 906609 ARCTIC For and Line P/Length cost (anide). This emecas style suspendent, new. 27,500 or and for our 0141 880 0095 CUEAN CIGARS Cohi Esplendidos 2 bosses 62 esch Tel:0181 767 5745 DEFEY Teletubby, to highest bid SHE to becomment full size makingary uncolor table with named low 25.500 instanting all conservation, light, some-board, see 1st 01.157 47 6220 (EPS-00006 CF).

hund new, desk green messess, 2350. Chanel black quibed vanity case, based new £250ano, Tak 0171 828 1600 Mink Long. Pox urin, hand new, size 16 unwanted gift £2,950 one Takû1785 819717 PRESILI colondina - pero old set in hint condition, Offers, Tel: 0181 780 1070, SPICE GIRLS Dolla, full set in eniginal packaging cost £34.95 best 65hr 01702 558276.

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"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE" Start the Festive Season in The Times on 22nd December 1997 by sending colleagues, clients, friends, family and loved ones that





### هكذا من ريام

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### R. J. WASHINGTON

R.). Washington, potter died on November 17 aged 84. He was born on May 2, 1913.

BOB WASHINGTON was one of the most inventive British potters of the century. though by no means the best-known. His comparative lack of recognition may in part have been a sign of how well he succeeded in his creative aims. His distinctively decorated and powerfully sculptural pots made a convincing case for ceramics to be considered one of the fine arts. As a result, however, it was all too easy for his work to be overlooked by mainstream craft galleries, while still being viewed with suspicion or disdain by dealers in painting and sculpture. In the main, however, Washington's low profile was of his own making. He enjoved great early success in the 1930s, when several of his pots were acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum, and he had several further acclaimed

one-man shows in the last twenty years of his life. For almost four decades in between, however, he largely vanished from public view. He continued to work, but was reluctant to exhibit and, often dissatisfied with his efforts, probably smashed more pots than he preserved. Much of his energy in the postwar years was devoted to farming and to education. He taught in art colleges in Derby, Dewsbury and Margate, serving as principal of the latter two, and was for 25 years art education inspector for Essex.

Robert Johnson Washington was born in South-East London, the son of an engineer. He showed early signs of artistic talent, and spent three years studying painting at Goldsmiths' College from

He then went to the Royal College of Art, where for a time he pursued further studies as a painter. His move into ceramics was initially prompted less by artistic considerations than by the charms of one of the pottery students, Marjorie Terry, who would later become his wife.

The RCA pottery department was run at that time by





the charismatic William Staite Murray, who with Bernard Leach was one of the founders and guiding lights of the studio pottery movement in Britain. He taught his students to regard pots as works of fine art, to be approached as

a form of sculpture. Washington took his teach-

er's lessons to heart, producing pots whose shapes may have owed something to Murray, but which, in a highly individual way, relied for their effect on a complex and fascinating interplay of irregular sculptural forms and disruptive graphic decoration. Several pots from a 1939

exhibition were purchased by the V&A.

On the outbreak of war. Washington left the teaching post he had taken up at Derby College of Art and joined the RAF; he studied hydraulics and was subsequently involved in aircraft engineering and construction. Returning to Derby after the war, he resumed his teaching career, and went on to become principal of the art schools in Dewsbury and then Margate before settling with his family in Essex, where he became art education inspector for the county.

He maintained his own studio, and his work was exhibited as part of the Festival of Britain, but his career as a potter lost imperus after the war. This was partly because of the demands placed on him by his educational work: partly because he was trying to support his family through such enterprises as growing Christmas trees and fruit and running a large chicken farm; and partly because his perfectionism meant that he was unhappy with much of the pottery he found time to produce. Fewer than 100 pieces by him are thought to survive from a thirty-year

period after the war. His artistic life resumed in earnest when he retired from other work in 1979. At his home outside Chelmsford he converted chicken sheds into a workshop and developed his earlier ideas in a series of monumental thrown pots, their anthropomorphic forms vividly offset by jaggedly distorted figurative decoration. He then moved off in fresh creative directions, constantly exploring new technical procedures and effects. At the Anatol Orient Gallery in London in 1988 he had a successful show of large, decorated wall-plaques. He later produced what he called "ceramic paintings", ceramic sculptures and painted pots.

After the death of his first wife Marjorie last year, Bob Washington married Su Lapesco, whom he had met when she was studying ceramics. She survives him with their daughter and the son of his first marriage.

Simon Jeffes, composer and leader of the Penguin Café Orchestra, died of cancer on December 10, aged 48. He was born on February 19,

imon Jeffes was a mu-sical adventurer who crossed boundaries with a sense of fun. He started as an avant-garde com-poser but through his Penguin Café Orchestra went on to develop an engaging musical Esperanto that made his work almost impossible to categorise, working with evervone from the Sex Pistols to the Royal Ballet.

He once described his edectic musical vision as catering for an audience capable of enjoying Wilson Pickett, Beethoven, the Rolling Stones, choral music from West Africa, Bach, Stravinsky, Irish bagpipe music and even Abba on the odd occasion. His music embraced them all, frequently at one and the same

Born in Sussex, he spent some of his early childhood in Canada but returned to Brirain to attend school in Devon. Very much a product of the late 1960s, Jeffes studied classical guitar under Julian Byzan-tine and Gilbert Biberian at the Royal Academy and played in various avant-garde groups including the Omega Players. He was influenced by the minimalists but soon rejected the world of experimental composition as lacking musical nourishment.

He claimed subsequently to have conceived the idea of the Penguin Café Orchestra while delirious with food poisoning in the south of France in 1972. The next day he felt better and went to the beach and wrote a poem that began "I am the proprietor of the Penguin Café. I will tell you things at random." The following year he visit-

ed Japan where he began writing the sort of music that would play in the Cafe, performed by imagined wild, free mountain people creating sounds of a subtly dreamlike quality. The musical vision expanded further when a friend gave him a tape of

SIMON JEFFES



African music. The effect was revelatory. "I found I was responding more to an mbira player from Zimbabwe than to avant-garde figures like Stockhausen, he said.

He formed Penguin Café Orchestra as a string band Sid Vicious and tutored the with a fluid line-up of up to seven people in late 1973; it African drumming.

The first album Music From The Penguin Cafe appeared in 1976 and was swiftly followed by Penguin Café Orchestra. A third album, Broadcasting From Home (1984), included Music For A Found Harmonium which was used in the television adverts for the launch of The Independent newspaper in 1986. The PCO sound was gently

insidious and foot-tapping but also experimental and full of surprises. Jeffes was like a musical gypsy, skimming off anything and everything he heard. The critic Robert Sandall described Jeffes's music as sounding "like a string quartet letting its hair down at some mysteriously-located barn dance of the future". He enjoyed the de-scription and believed it got as close as anything to capturing

the music's essence. A fourth album, Signs Of Life (1987) was widely regarded as their best, leading to a South Bank Show presented by Melvyn Bragg devoted to Jeffes's music. The following year he arranged some of the PCO's music for full-scale orchestra for the Royal Ballet's Still Life at The Penguin Cafe. Choreographed by David Bintley, it has remained popu-

lar in the repertoire ever since. Jeffes's love of African music was consummated when he was asked to do some string arrangements for the Senegalese star Baaba Maal. He also worked with Ryuichi Sakamoto. The 1993 album Union Café continued to push the boundaries, featuring Nigel Kennedy, telephones and dripping taps. Concert Programme (1995), PCO's last album, was a live studio performance reworking earlier material

Three years ago Jeffes moved to Somerset and built a new studio. He was working on a set of new compositions when he found a year ago that he had a brain turnour. Although this rendered him partly blind and reduced his ability to communicate, his mind remained fully alert and he bore his illness with unfail-

ing good humour. He is survived by his partner Helen Liebman and son

#### **ROD MILBURN**

Rodney Milburn, Olympic champion and world record holder in the 110 metres hurdles, was found dead at his workplace in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on November 12 aged 47. He was born on May 18, 1950.

THE American hurdler Rod Milburn was one of the talented few in his sport to achieve what Britain's equally blessed long jumper Mary Rand once described as "the perfect victory" - winning an Olympic Gold medal with a world record-breaking performance.

Milburn's triumph for the United States in the high hurdles at Munich in 1972 provided a much needed change in mood after the saddest ceremony in Olympic history - the memorial service for the Israeli team members killed by Palestinian terrorists in Munich earlier that week.

sport, the explosively starting and smoothly flowing Milburn was just the man to bring cheers echoing around the stadium. With his bushy Afro haircut and hearded chin jutting aggressively forward, he lived up to his nickname of 'Hot Rod" as he charged over

the ten harriers. With Milburn ahead after the first two flights, the challenge from his American team-mate Tom Hill disappeared when Hill hit a hurdle, leaving the silver medal to be won by the Frenchman Guy Dret, who would be Olympic champion in 1976 and later

France's Minister for Sport. Finishing ahead of the field by a clear metre, Milburn had an official time of 13.2 seconds, which was more accurately and electronically timed at 13.24 seconds when electronic

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spectators found it hard to ed times became mandatory. turn their minds again to Milburn's Olympic perfor-Milburn's Olympic performance was the first to be recognised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Born at Opelousas, Louisiana. Milburn was barely 16 when he started hurdling at Clark High School under his first coach Claude Paxton. His first big break came when he entered Southern University and received encouragement from the 1968 Olympic champion Willie Davenport and his coach Dick Hill.

Milburn was such a consistently fine competitor in an event where one brushed ankle can spell disaster that he won no fewer than 80 out of 82 spring hurdle races between 1971 and 1973. Yet he only scraped into the United States team for Munich, after hitting two hurdles in the final trials and snatching third and final qualifying place in a race so

Though many of the 80,000 rather than manually record-tight that just 0.1 secs covered found that they were not going the first six men.

> managed to cash in on his talent, being born just too early to catch the appearance money now available to top class athletes. In 1973 he tried to break into American football as a wide receiver with the Los Angeles Rams, but he quit because he felt he was not given his due worth. His next venture was in 1975 when he joined the short-lived professional athletics group of the International Track Association run by Tom O'Hara.

Having won his Olympic title in 1972, it was not until eight years later that he made a remarkable return to topclass competition, ranking sixth fastest in the world with a time of 13.40 seconds. Having been reinstated at the beginning of 1980 for amateur competition. Milburn and other former ITA athletes then

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to be allowed to compete in the US Olympic trials.

As the trials began, the polevaulter Steve Smith took the American athletic authorities to court and he and the shotputter Brian Oldfield were finally allowed to compete. Milburn missed out because the hurdles had been decided before the court ruling. But he had his consolation. None of the Americans ever did make it to the Moscow Olympics, because President Carter decided to boycott the games.

Latterly Milburn had been staying with relatives in Baton Rouge and in a homeless shelter. He died from burns sustained when he apparently fell into a tank of high-temperature bleaching solution at the Georgia Pacific paper mill where he worked. His wife, with whom he had

three children, filed for divorce in July.

Billy Bremner, Leeds



was one of the first signings to

Brian Eno's Obscure label.

Jeffes also established a reput-

ation as an arranger and

collaborator. He was responsi-

ble for the strings on the

bizarre version of My Way by

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Over the Christmas period the following deadline will apply: All potters to appear on: Treesday December 23rd, Wednesday December 24th, Friday December 25th, Saturday December 27th and		elaiming to be remoted to that at deceased please onested. The rubble Trustee of Ousessland, (27) Roy 2251, Brisbano, Queens- land, 4001 quering reference to a property of the con-	of 24 Whitelands House, Chel- tenham Turnice, Chaires, London 8W3 diad on 10 August 1995; particulars to CHIVELS EASTON ROWN Solletons of 381 EWELL SCHO, TOLWIGHTH, SURKEY KTS 7UF before 14 February 1998.	Road, Uniberieigh, Deven died en 31 October 1997 partirelast to The Bestuto, Midhad Bank Trast Company Limited, Probets Operations, 2nd Foor, Deacon House, 522 Syne Susset, Sheffield 51 3EE Suiver 14 Subragar 1998.
Monday Dec		details of their civim. Notice is hereby given on or after the 10 March 1998 the Public Tracted intends yoursent to Sec-		

#### **MILESTONES**

United and Scotland footballer, died of a heart attack on December 7 aged 54. He was born on December 9, 1942.

Billy Bremner was one of the most respected and even feared footballers of his generation. A committed and competitive player - sometimes too much so - he captained one of the most formidable and least attrac-



tive teams in history. There was nothing glamorous about the Leeds side built up by the manager Don Revie, but under Bremner's captaincy it became a dominant force in the English game. As well as making 585 league appearances in his 17 years at Elland Road, Bremner had 54 caps for Scotland, Bremner left Leeds for Hull City in 1976, then moved to

Doncaster as player-manager. In 1985 he returned to manage Leeds, but three years later was sacked and returned to Doncaster. Obituary published on

Lord Dainton, FRS. former chairman of the University Grants Committee and of the Board of the British Library, died on December 5 aged 83. He was born on November 11, 1914.

Fred Dainton brought the

mind of a scientist to bear upon public affairs. A strongwilled, no-nonsense York-shireman, he showed great independence of mind as chairman of the University Grants Committee when Margaret Thatcher was Secretary of State for Education. As chairman of the Board of the British Library, he ensured that the new institution

would be abreast of the latest technology when it opened. His years of distinguished public service followed a no less distinguished academic career as a chemist in Oxford, Cambridge and Leeds, and a period as vice-chancellor of the University of Nottingham. Created a life peer in 1984, he spoke in the House of Lords against cuts in education and science funding. Obituary published or December 8.



George Chisholm, OBE jazz trombonist and humorist. died on December 6 aged 82. He was born on March 29,

George Chisholm was one of the handful of British jazz musicians who became internationally famous in the prewar period. Later, as well as becoming a distinctive soloist, he also became a regular bit-part player in film and television comedy. Obituary published on December 9.

Lord Wyatt of Weeford, former Labour MP, chairman of the Tote, 1976-97, and newspaper columnist, died on December 7 aged 79. He was born on July 4, 1918.

Though never a wholly successful political figure,



Woodrow Wyatt exercised

far more influence than others who were. First elected a

Labour MP in 1945, he only

once briefly held office, as

Under-Secretary at the War Office in 1951. His parlia-

mentary career came defini-

tively to an end when he lost the mining seat of Bosworth

to a Conservative in 1970. But

his political advice was always much sought. He was a

newspaper columnist for the best part of 50 years, during

which time his views changed from left-wing so-

cialism in the 1940s to support of Thatcherite Conservatism in the 1980s.

He was also a pioneer of

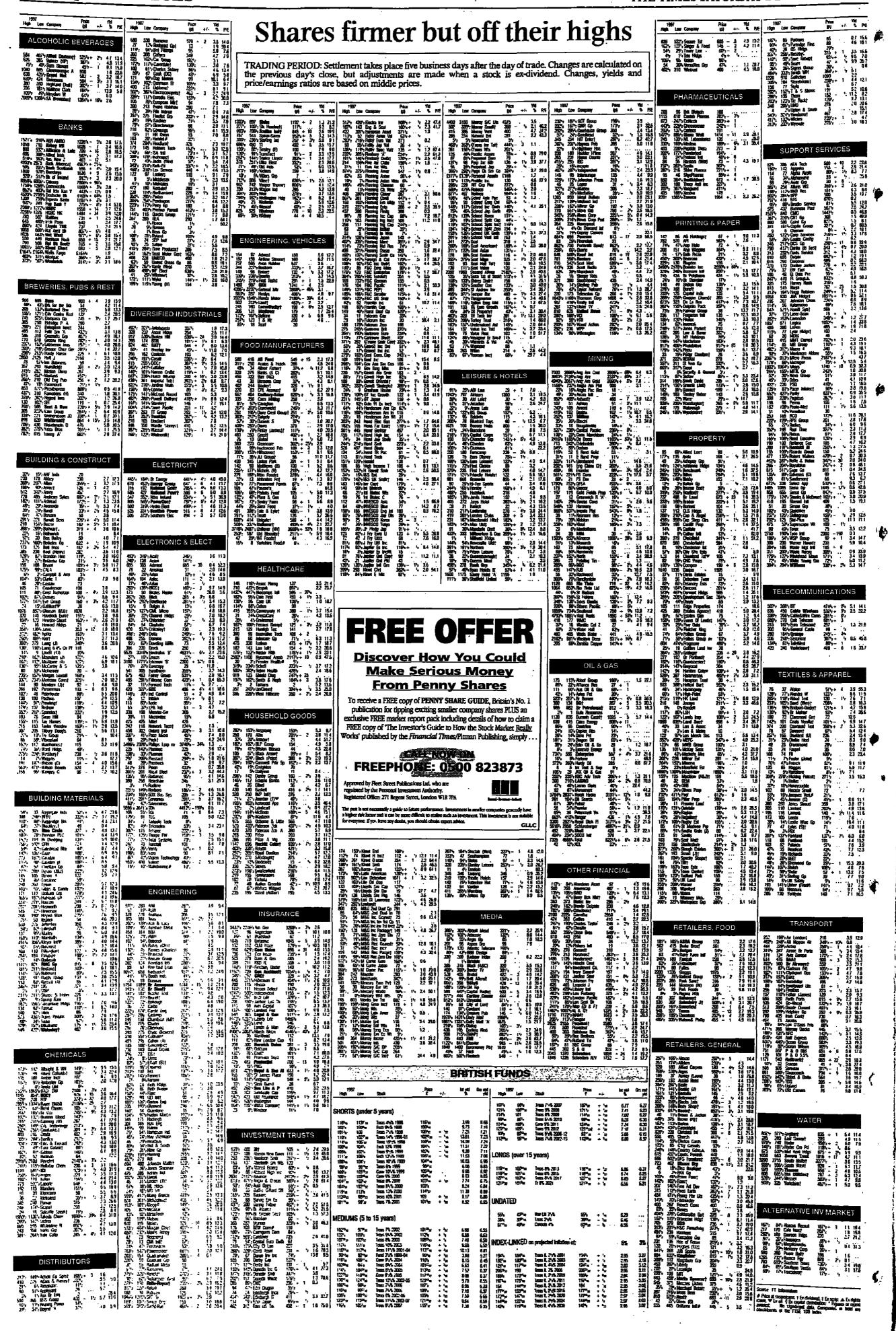
abrasive interviewing as a

star reporter on Panorama

in the 1950s. He served for 21

years as an often controversial chairman of the

Horserace Totalisator Board.





**BUSINESS 30** Moyne aims to repair his

### BUSINESS

WEEKEND SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

**BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft** 

reputation

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997

### BT faces bill for £100m over wrong pensions

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

BT may be forced to pay up to £100 million in compensation to managers who took voluntary redundancy in the early 1990s but were given the wrong pension.

Trustees of the £18.5 billion BT Pension Scheme have taken the company to the High Court in an agreed test case to sort out a problem that has plagued the telecom group for more than two

ers originally employed by the Post Office before 1971 and who transferred to BT after its privatisation in 1987 were given pensions in line with civil servants when they accepted voluntary redundancy in the early 1990s. The decision will affect a further 4,000 managers still

employed by BT.
The 5,000 managers, all aged between 40 and 49 and members of group A of the BT Pension Scheme when they were laid off, were originally part of the Primary Civil Service Pension Scheme. The PCPS now pays a lump sum of four times final salary to civil servants who are made redundant, whereas the BT managers received a multiple of

The Society of Telecom Executives, which represents 20,000 telecom managers, noticed the discrepancy two years ago. It contacted the trustees who began negotiations with BT. Two test cases involving a former manager, Robert Mowle.

and an employee, Alan Greenwood, have been sent to the High Court. A spokesman for BT said the STE figures were too high but admitted the company's liability could stretch to "tens of millions of pounds". If the pension scheme could not fund this then BT would compensate the former employees directly. The chances of BT taking the charge directly have increased since the

pension scheme was revalued

downwards after the Chancellor's

abolition of advance corporation tax

in July.
BT has shed 125,000 jobs. more than half its workforce, since 1990. Other privatised companies such as British Gas, who have also shed thousands of jobs, will watch the case with interest. Pensions benefits have proved to be one of the most controversial areas for privatised companies which have embarked scale redundancy large

The issue of whether electricity companies can use surpluses from Electricity Supply Pension Scheme has dragged both National Power and National Grid into the court this year.

An appeal from electricity pensioners is still expected after the High Court rejected a Pensions Ombudsman decision in July. Hermes, the BT scheme's fund manager, transferred £1.5 billion of funds into Hermes Liberty International Pensions, a joint venture it has set up with Liberty Life, the South

'Big two'

put on

credit

watch

By OUR ECONOMICS EDITOR

TWO out of three of Japan's

remaining "big four" securities houses. Nikko and

Daiwa, were yesterday put on credit watch by one of the

Moody's made it clear

that it is the long-term debt of both firms that it has

placed under review and

that their short-term debt is

not affected. The distinction

is important in the nervous

atmosphere following the

recent collapse of Yamaichi

Securities, the smallest of

the big four as it makes clear

Moody's is not concerned

about the immediate solven-

in view of the deteriorating

business climate in Asia and

the risk to the two firms of

possible sanctions related to

their part in a scandal

involving payments to

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, Ja-

pan's Finance Minister, said

yesterday that he intended

to take punitive measures

against Nikko and Daiwa

Moody's found room to

praise Nikko, saying that

the firm had made progress

in developing its interna-

tional business and building

its asset management busi

ness, despite difficult

In the case of Daiwa, the

agency said: "Dwindling

stock values, intensifying

competition by foreign secu-

rities firms and domestic

banks, and the negative

impact of the sokaiya pay-

ment investigation pose

challenges for Daiwa in

attaining its strategic goals."

by the end of this month.

The agency decided to act

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#### B*usinēss* TODAY

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US RATE

LONDON MONEY

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Brent 15-day (Feb) \$17.75 (\$17.55) GCLD

London close ... \$282.65 (\$283.75) denotes midday trading price

#### Generators called to **RJB** talks

By JASON NISSE

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the Paymaster General, has called the three main electricity generators - National Power, Powergen and Eastern Electricity - and RJB Mining to a Monday morning meeting to

The Treasury is hoping to persuade the generators to extend the existing five-year coal contracts by up to three months in an attempt to stop RJB closing up to nine mines with the loss of 5,000 jobs.

New deals between RJB and the generators are due to start in April, with National Power cutting its purchase to eight million tonnes a year. Eastern halving its demand to four million tonnes and Powergen threatening to take no RIB coal. Tony Blair has called for a freeze on building gas-fuelled power sta-

### America dashes Korea's hope of quick payout from IMF

By Janet Bush IN LONDON AND JENNIFER VEALE IN SEOUL

0d

AMERICA yesterday dashed hopes in South Korea that it would support speeding-up rescue payments by the International Monetary

A spokesman for the US Treasury said: "It is clear that Korea would welcome early disbursement. At this time, it is not possible."

Seoul has been hoping that the IMF would release \$21 billion, rather than the planned \$9 billion, by the end of this month. So far, South Korea has received only \$5.6 billion of an IMF bail-out of nearly \$60 billion.

The negative statement from the US Treasury came only hours before the deadline for a deal on global liberalisation of trade in financial services in Geneva. Seven hours before the deadline, America had not made its position known, prompting speculation that it was holding out for a better deal.

Two years ago, the US scuppered an agreement at the last minute because it was not satisfied that offers from Latin. America and Asia would open up their markets sufficiently.

South Korea, and the broader Asian financial crisis, will top the agenda at a series of high-level meetings early next week. On Monday, the IMF will debate the possibility of a short-term financing mechanism designed to restore market confidence.

On Tuesday, Asia will head the agenda at a meeting in Washington between Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance



Not so secure securities: an anxious South Korean investor watches the trading board in a securities house in Seoul vesterday

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF; Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary; and Alan Greenspan. Chairman of the US Federal

The IMF's meeting on Monday is held amid a growing realisation that even a huge

Korea and prevent the contagion spreading even deeper throughout the region, partic-

ularly to Japan. Christopher Huhne, managing director of Fitch IBCA. the international credit agency, said: "The IMF's reputation is on the line. It has got to show that it is cabable of

omy in the world." South Korea had another

abysmal day. The won fluctuated wildly, despite heavy intervention by the central bank. The stock market plunged by more than 6 per cent in the first ten minutes of trading on the news that Dongsuh, the nation's thirdlargest securities firm, had

filed for court receivership. The market closed more than

4 per cent lower. The sense of crisis deepened as Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, down-graded 22 South Korean banks and the state-owned Korea Development Bank had to pull a \$2 billion bond issue because of lack of interest

from investors. The money off short-term debt.

Confidence was battered even further by an IMF report saying that South Korea's foreign exchange reserves stood at only \$6 billion. On Wednesday. Lim Chang-yuel, South Korea's Finance Minister, esti-

#### rescue package has failed to stabilise the situation in South Minister; President Clinton: rescuing the 11th largest econ-Waste disposal chief to get £69m in SWW deal

By GEORGE SIVELL

TERRY ADAMS, a 55-yearold West Country businessman, will shortly receive a cheque for £69 million from South West Water.

Yesterday he sold his waste disposal company to South West Water for £77 million up front, plus a possible £28 million later. Adams family trusts own 90 per cent of Terry Adams Ltd, which was built up by buying abandoned open-cast coalmines from Brit-

Mr Adams, who lives near Exeter, started in business during the Seventies with a family quarrying concern. The attraction of his business to South West Water is that much of his company's landfill space already has permission for waste dumping. South West Water sees land-

fill as a good source of profit to supplement its heavily regulated profits from its basic water supply business. Yesterday's deal makes South West Water one of the biggest landfill companies in the

The deal will add landfill sites across England to South West Water's existing network.

In the 12 months to March 31, 1997, Terry Adams turnover was £15.5 million, while the profit before tax and directors' remuneration was E5.5 million.

After the deal Haul Waste. South West Water's subsidiary, becomes one of the largest landfill operators in the United Kingdom.

In the 1996-97 financial year Haul Waste contributed

£7.8 million of pre-tax profit. The newly acquired landfill land from Bristol to Manchester and Derby. The Terry Adams sites have capacity of 49 million cubic metres, of

which 17 million cubic metres

have consent. After the acquisition, South West Water said that it will have 55 million cubic metres of consented space and 75 million cubic metres of space without consent.

Colin Drummond, managing director of South West Water Enterprises, said: "The acquisition represents natural progression in growing our waste management business. It will further enhance the ability to contribute to the South West Water group's profit growth.

#### Moyne says he was not paid £1m

By Jon Ashworth

LORD MOYNE, the former Jonathan Guinness, has denied that he was paid more than El million for acting as "front-man" for alleged Swedish swindlers who targeted Trustor, the Swedish investment company.

The peer, who claims to be an unwitting pawn, admits receiving a fee for allowing his name to front the purchase of a controlling stake in Trustor. Nearly £50 million in Trustor funds subsequently passed through his London bank account, en route to

destinations offshore. Lord Moyne's stake in Trustor has been sold for a nominal sum in return for a guarantee that his expenses will be met. Profile, City Diary, page 30

#### Euro on hold as Shell plans switch to dollars By George Sivell

ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, is to switch from reporting its results in sterling to dollars next financial year.

Such a move, by one of Europe's largest companies, may seem surprising ahead of the creation of a single European currency. But Shell points out that oil is a dollar commodity, exploration and production projects are fre-quently costed in dollars, and that many of its main rivals are American.

Yesterday Shell said that Royal Dutch, the Dutch half of the business in The Hague. would contemplate reporting in euros if and when the Netherlands joined the euro. Similarly, Shell Transport and Trading, the British half of the business in London. would contemplate a switch to reporting in euros if and when

Britain signed up to a single European currency. The myriad Shell subsidiary companies worldwide will continue to report in their local currencies.

Shell was at pains to assure

shareholders that the complicated mechanism for declaring British and Dutch dividends in sterling and guilders will remain. BP has for some time published dollar figures alongside its sterling results and like

Shell will publish results in euros if and when Britain joins the single currency. So one day in the dim and distant future BP results could be in three currencies: the dollar for the benefit of the oil industry and those analysts making international comparisons: sterling for the benefit of

British shareholders; and

euros, to show what a fine

European company it is.

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AWEEK IN THE CITY

was not cast in stone.

Yorkshire Food called in the receivers, while a former City analyst-turned-gastronome found himself in the money. Andrew Palmer, who set up the New Covent Garden Soup Company, and hung on to his shares after he was forced out in 1993, is set to receive more than £2 million for his stake (no pun rejected an initial takeover ap-

intended). S Daniels, a food company, is paying up to £24 million for

proach, then revealed two days later but sources denied it.

Financial turmoil in Asia spread to South Korea, which saw the won fall 10 per cent in four minutes, on fears that the economy was close to imploding. Better cheer at the Savoy, which took delivery of its new fleet of Rolls-Royce and Daimler cars, exclusively for the use of guests. A top-of-the-market indica-

JON ASHWORTH

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The week had a familiar feel. A mega merger. A boardroom coup. More millionaires. The European aerospace industry was primed for a shake-up, markets in the Far East took a fresh tumble, and Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer, found itself

under the gavel. Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) announced that it was to merge with Swiss Bank Corporation in a £35 billion deal, sounding the death knell for another batch of vintage City names. Phillips & Drew has long been subsumed by UBS, and SG Warburg now labours under the fide SBC Warburg Dillon Read. And who re-

members Rowe & Pitman? Up to 3,000 jobs could go as UBS and SBC crunch together their London operations. According to Acquisitions Monthly, the world total for mergers and acquisitions has reached £289 billion since Septem-

Toyota chose France for its new European factory, fuelling fears that Britain will lose out because of its failure to join the first wave of European economic and monetary union (EMU) in 1999. Europe's defence and aerospace companies were told to come up with "a clear plan and detailed timetable for integration by March 1998, bring ing great opportunities for GEC

and British Aerospace, along with Airbus Industrie. Nationwide Building Society pre-

dicted a sharp slowdown in house prices next year, as gold slumped to an 18-year low. The Government backtracked over its controversial individual savings account (ISA), saying the proposed £50,000 limit

Michael Morris, the man behind Yves Saint Laurent in the UK, was

left with a paper profit of about £9 million when Marchpole came to the market. Elsewhere, the sound of rending fabric echoed down Regent Street, as Denis Cassidy was turfed out as chairman of Liberty, the upmarket retailer. The move says much for the tenacity of Brian Myerson, the active value campaigner, who has been trying since June 1992 to win a place on the Liberty board

Christie's announced that it had

that the mystery suitor had come back with a better offer. Fingers were pointed at Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based investor who holds a 29.9 per cent stake in Christie's,

tor if ever there was one.

### 'Sam' poised to give £25bn boost to economy

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

AGEING homeowners could release up to £25 billion into the economy over the next five years as they convert equity locked in their homes into much-needed cash, according to a forecast by SBC Warburg, the invest-

SBC Warburg believes the shared appreciation mortgage (Sam) will become more widely available in 1998 as lenders such as Abbey National, Barclast year, into the market.

An increasing number of "assetrich but cash-poor" homeowners are turning to Sams to finance their retirement. By taking one out, homeowners who have paid off most, or all, of their mortgage, can raise more money by giving away a proportion of the future growth in value of their property to the lender. They are safer than the notorious home income

lays and NatWest follow the Bank of Scotland, which launched the Sam ers surrender none of the existing value of their property. The BoS is receiving E3 million of Sam applications every day and expects total business to reach £750 million by the end of next year.

Sams are on the Government's agenda, as it urges people to provide for themselves in retirement. The equity locked in homes is valued at £000 billion and is predicted to rise to \$1.5 trillion in the next four years.

Tapping these sums is seen as new £50 billion market in mortgage-essential for increasing welfare without raising taxes.

If successful, Sams could have profound implications for the stock market. Craig Corn, director of SBC Warburg's Residential Property Group, says homeowners are overinvested in property and need to diversify assets. If they turn to equities it could herald the start of a long-term bull run in the market.

In addition, Sams will generate a

backed bonds for institutional investors to trade in, double the existing

market in index-linked gilts. Next month SBC Warburg and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson willsecuritise a triple A-rated E250 million tranche of Sam loans from the BoS. Annual returns are expected to be 9 per cent. Minimum investment has been reduced to £10,000.

Weekend Money, page 64

### Littlewoods and Burton in deal over

shopping

LITTLEWOODS is teaming up with Burton, the fashion retailer, to create a new homeshopping business with access to about six million customers. The privately owned football

pools and retail group has won the right to feature Burton brands - which include Dorothy Perkins. Top Man and Bur-ton Menswear — in its existing home-shopping portfolio.

The two companies will also create a separate joint-venture company, 65 per cent owned by Burton, to run Burton's own home-shopping lines which also include Hawkshead and Racing Green. Littlewoods will pay £15 million for the remaining stake in the joint venture as well as providing the infra-structure for the business. The two companies will share acto their customer

James Ross, chairman of Littlewoods, said: "This venture is part of our strategy to transform Littlewoods' image by adding quality brands to our catalogues." He added that the company was considering entering the electronic homeshopping market through cable and digital television and remains on the lookout for further joint ventures.

The announcment came as Littlewoods unveiled a 52 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £40.4 million. Group retail sales rose by 5 per cent to £891 million boosted by strong growth in the direct homeshopping operations.

But Mr Ross said sales in

the past six weeks were only 3 per cent ahead, reviving concern that the high street is suffering a poor run-up to Christmas. Mr Ross said he was not too concerned by the lower sales growth as the recent thrust of the group has been to improve profit margins.

Its high street stores, which were pulled off the market earlier this year after the company failed to find a buyer, increased profits by 63 per cent to £8.8 million despite 17 per cent slump in sales during the first half. The direct sales unit also increased profits sharply from £16.2 million to £27.4 million.

The pools business, however, continued to struggle against competition from the National Lottery. Profits fell a quarter to £8.9 million and Mr Ross admits there is little the company can do to fight back except improve its distribution system and aim to stabilise sales. But he added that the business was still cash genera-tive and profitable and a sale would only be enivsaged at a price which created share-holder value.



Peter Lawrence, chairman of Lawrence, the animal feed and pet care company, reported annual pre-tax profits of £1.28 million (£985.000). Earn-

ings were 13.4p (11.2p) and the (1.65p). The shares rose op to a record. 40lp. Mr Lawrence said the company, which ex-

ports a significant share of its products, continued to suffer from the pound's strength. but would report further progress at the year-end.

#### **Inquiry** into financial services for the elderly

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE methods used to sell finincial products to elderly. disabled and vulnerable people will come under scrutiny next week when the Office of Fair Trading launches a new inquiry into sales tactics.

The investigation comes emid concern that the most vulnerable members of the population may have been sold unsuitable products by unscrupulous agents and fin-

ancial advisers. The inquiry, to be launched next week, will cover banking, credit insurance, savings and other financial products sold to elderly or disabled people. people with learning difficulties or low educational attainment, and to people for whom English is not their first

language.
The Office of Fair Trading has decided to act because it felt that there might be a problem that had not come to light because few of the people affected understood what they had been sold.

A spokesman for the OFT said: We are talking about groups which may not be financially astute and so we do not get many complaints. However, we became aware of the need to look at this sector more carefully.'

The inquiry will not look at long-term care insurance, which is a product sold almost exclusively to elderly people. The OFT has already begun a separate inquiry into residential and nursing home care and has looked at the sale of private medical insurance. The investigation into long-term care is expected to be published by next spring.

#### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

#### ICI sells stake in AEL for \$117m

ICI is raising \$117 million (about £71 million) through the sale of its 51 per cent shareholding in AEL, the South African explosives business, to its joint venture partner, AECI AEL manufactures and supplies bulk and packaged explosives, initiating systems and blast management services to the mining, quarrying, construction and allied exploration

The business, which is based near Johannesburg, has three main operating units in South Africa, Ghana and Zambia, with export sales into the Congo. Zimbabwe and East Africa. Sales in 1996 were \$221 million and trading profit was \$32 million. Net assets were \$54 million at the last year-end and the business employed about 3,800 people. The disposal is the latest stage in ICI's restructuring to focus on speciality chemicals, coatings and materials. The company said the effect of the sale on the group's earnings was expected to be

#### Oil price slide halted

WORLD oil prices staged a modest recovery yesterday after touching 18-month lows on Thursday on growing fears that a flood of oil would swamp markets next spring and summer. The world benchmark crude, Brent blend, was up 14 cents at \$17.55 a barrel, having dipped to \$17.20. But prices remain locked below the psychologically important \$18 level and many analysts expect a raft of bearish factors over the coming months to keep prices down. This year prices have averaged \$19.43 after falling sharply from \$25 in January.

#### Anite confirms talks

SHARES in Anite Group rose 6p, to 50p, vesterday after the computer software and services company confirmed that it was negotiating a sale of its UK networks business. The company said that it would give details of the proposed disposal at the time of the publication of its half-year financial results, next Tuesday. Anite, formerly known as Cray Electronics, is restructuring itself after incurring a pre-tax loss of £50 million in the year to April 30. Market rumours of an imminent disposal had lifted the shares from a low of 32p in August.

#### Beaufort issues warning

BEAUFORT, the AIM-listed sponsorship management group. believes that profits will be "significantly lower" in the year to March 1998. Beaufort said the results for Beaufort Management Consultants, the management consultancy business that accounted for 67 per cent of group fee income in the first six months, were down against last year. Beaufort says the longerterm outlook remains encouraging. In the six months to September 30 Beaufort made £103,000 before tax (£287,000).

#### Allied Irish in US sale

ALLIED TRISH BANKS has confirmed the sale of the credit card operations of First Maryland Bancorp. a subsidiary, to BankAmerica for an undisclosed sum. BankAmerica is buying the \$623 million (£370 million) in receivables of First Omni Bank and Dauphin Deposit Bank, which are owned by First Maryland. AIB sold the Bell Atlantic co-branded credit card portfolio to Chase Manhattan Bank in August. AIB said the businesses had been hit by competition.

#### Calluna calls for cash

CALLUNA, the electronic equipment group, is to raise £6 million net via a placing and rights issue. Calluna has also agreed a short-term bridging facility of up to £1 million, to be repaid from the proceeds of the placing. Shareholders were told in a statement that the company needed the cash to continue to trade. The shares remain suspended at 1512p. Overall losses were £2.8 million in the first half to September 30 (£2 million

#### Brasway pegs payout

BRASWAY, the manufacturer of connection products to the hydraulic, fluid and gas systems markets, is holding the interim dividend at 0.31p a share after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits to £1.04 million from £1.39 million previously. Latest results were adversely affected by the strength of sterling and by a £141,000 restructuring charge. Earnings fell to 0.89p a share from 1.12p. In the short term trading would continue to be affected by the strong pound, the company said.



#### DIRECT Savings

#### RATES OF INTEREST

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	) % p.a.	%-p.a.
Direct Premium Account		
Annual Interest	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
£1,000 - £9,999	6.80	5.44
£10,000 - £24,999	7.05	5.64
£25,000 +	7.15	5.72
Monthly Income		
£10.000 - £24,999	6.80	5.44
£25,000 +	6.90	5.52
Direct Notice Account		
Annual Interest	$\overline{}$	
£1,000 - £9,999	6.95	5.56
£10,000 - £24,999	7.15	5.72
£25,000 +	7.30	5.84
Monthly Income	+	<del> </del> -
£10.000 - £24.999	6.90	5.52
£25,000 ÷	7.05	5.64
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Annuel Interest	<del></del>	Τ
£5,000 - £14,999	7.30	5.84
£15.000 - £29,999	7.40	5.92
£30,000 - £49,999	7.50	6.00
£50,000 +	7.55	6.04
Monthly Income	_	1
£15.000 - £29,999	7.15	5.72
£30,000 - £49,999	7.25	5.80
£50.000 +	7.30	5.84
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Annual Interest		T
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£30,000 - £49,999	7.60	6.08
£50,000 +	7.65	6.12
Monthly Income	1	1
£15.000 - £29.999	7.25	5.80
£30,000 - £49,999	7.40	5.92
£50,000 +	7.45	5.96
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### debt records are inadequate

A HIGH COURT judge has ruled that debt records submitted by Lloyd's of London in bankruptcy proceedings against 627 names are inadequate.

Mr Justice Tuckey told Lloyd's that it has to come up with more information to back up its calculations of how much is owed by the names, among 1,000 facing order 14 bankruptcy actions.

The additional information must be made available on January 12, in advance of a High Court hearing which is scheduled for January 21.

An action group of names claimed the ruling as a victory in their fight to avoid paying the premium cost of setting up Equitas, the company that was established to take on Lloyd's massive liabilities, which spiralled in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as a result of natural disasters and asbestosis

Catherine Mackenzie Smith, of the United Names Organisation, commented: This is a major set-back for Lloyd's deb! collection operations. If they cannot establish proof of their numbers then they cannot pursue names for

However, a Lloyd's spokesman said: "We are confident that the further material we can supply to the court will uphold our case."

He added: "We see this as a delay but are confident of being able to enforce judgments against all the delendants " He said that this was not thought to require masses of new paperwork being

submitted. Earlier this year, a pay-nowsue-later clause in the names' contracts was upheld, giving Lloyd's the power to push forward with their debt collection without having to first deal with any fraud allega-

The 627 names, represented by Michael Freeman, are being pursued for £130 million

#### Court says Lloyd's | Swiss to monitor effects of banks' mega-merger

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN ZURICE

OFFICIALS of the Swiss National Bank said yesterday that they would monitor closely the planned merger of Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp, announced earlier this week.

Hans Meyer, SNB chair-man, said that the merger raised questions about the implementation of Swiss monetary policy.

If approved, it would create the world's second-biggest bank by assets and the world's largest asset manager, but at the cost of 13,000 jobs. Some 7,000 jobs are slated to go in Switzerland alone over the next three to four years. accounting for 6 per cent of all banking jobs in the country. A further 3,000 jobs are likely to be lost in London.

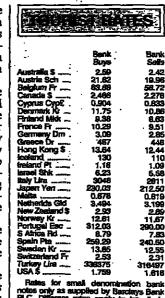
Herr Meyer emphasised that companies should be free to make their own decisions within the framework of con-ditions laid down by the Government and Parliament to steer economic activity in avenues that benefit the common good. He said: "On the national and international level, the financial industry is still undergoing great change.

"Size alone is no guarantee of success, but above all in international business it is necessary to have the sustained clout that arises from the combination of human and technical resources."

He said that many people cared less about the financial logic of the deal than about the impact of such moves on their daily lives. This was especially so in Switzerland, a relatively small country that is home to many multinational companies. "A force field is arising here with an impact on business and society that we have to watch carefully."

Herr Meyer praised the senior managers who will be in charge of implementing the

He said: Their expertise and above all their awareness of their responsibility offer assurances they will proceed



THE SUNDAY TIMES **●** Working in the City has been the next best thing to winning the Lottery over the past three years

> cases ... seven-figure bonuses numbered? Business Focus on the changing fortunes for traders and bankers. The Sunday Times tomorrow

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THE SUNDAY PAPERS

### CHG makes £30m bid for private hospitals group

CONSOLIDATION of the private hospitals sector gathered pace yesterday with a 230 million agreed takeover bid by Community Hospitals Group for Independent British Healthcare.

The takeover was announced yesterday, almost one month after CHG acquired a 20 per cent interest in Independent British Healthcare from Bupa, the private healthcare company. Bupa has subsequently launched a hostile takeover bid for Care First, the £240

million healthcare group. CHG is offering seven shares and £32.66 in cash for every 100 IBH shares, valuing shares in the Blackpool-based company at 110p each. IBH shares, which trade on the Alternative Investment Mar-

ket. rose 4p to 105p.

Community Hospitals.
which is based in Bedford and was founded in 1981, sold most of its nursing homes to Bupa in June to concentrate on the more profitable private hospital business. The addition of IBH's 11 hospitals in England will give the enlarged group 22 private hospitals in the UK.

Alan Dexter, chairman of CHG, said: "We decided at the beginning of the year to concentrate on the provision of acute medical services and to grow both by acquisition and by extending the range of

services offered by our existing hospitals."

He added: "IBH is an

excellent fit with no significant geographic overlap and provides additional scope for future profit growth within our group. We believe the enlarged group will be in a strong position to take advantage of the opportunities being created by the process of rapid changes in the healthcare sector.

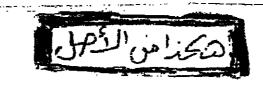
Last year, IBH made a profit before tax of £1 million on turnover of £37.8 million and directors have forecast a profit for the current year of not less than £500,000 excluding exceptional charges of £2.2 million.

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efficiencies can be made

Norman would have to tread

carefully round any suggestion

that there were savings to be had

from putting the two businesses together and axing jobs. Hostile bids can be hostile indeed, and if

Safeway wanted to fight off an

attack from Asda, this would be

one line in chairman David

Webster's ammunition. Here is

heartless Norman aiming to throw innocent shop workers

onto the street just as noble Tesco

is preparing to take on hundreds

of unemployed youngsters under the Government's Welfare to

Tory politically acceptable would

Making such moves by a top

Norman, in his pre-political

phase, was far from averse to

hostile bids and is credited with

Dixons. That effort came to

tion of the Monopolies Com-mission. The perils of the MMC

will be imprinted on Norman's

Work scheme.

vet aspire.

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997 rchie Norman took on the A challenge of resurrecting one basket case in the shape of Asda, and achieved remarkable success. He is now

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with the even more daunting subject of the Tory Party. Would he really want to have his efforts at Central Office overshadowed by involvement in a hostile takeover bid? This question did not appear to have intruded into the more excitable quarters of the stock market last week, as rumours persisted that Asda was gearing up to make a full scale takeover bid for

occupied on his second attempt

at the Lazarus exercise, this time

But educated Archie will have calculated all the implications of such a move. He may be Tun-bridge Wells's representative in Westminster, but he still finds time to be Asda's chairman in Leeds, and if a bid were to be forthcoming, he would be cast in the lead role.

No harm in that necessarily. This Government has made clear its approbation of fullblooded commerce, recruiting businessmen by the score to bring commercial nouse to the aid of the nation. So if the deputy chairman of the Tory Party launches a takeover bid, it should, logically, meet with cheers not jeers from the Labour benches, particularly if he can promise cheaper groceries as a

Yet prices can only be reduced

### Taking over the safe way

هكذامن رلامل



**COMMENTARY** by our City Editor

to avoid those that he and Safeway had actually been trying to persuade the Office of Fair Trading to give them informal guidance on whether a friendly merger would be acceptable.

News of their talks leaked out before a verdict was given. Yet it seems unlikely that the two companies would abandon their plans completely after doing eight months of research. A hostile bid require spinning of a sophistica is unlikely, but do not rultion to which Central Office has attempt at a deal of sorts. is unlikely, but do not rule out an

#### Trust-biter general is bitten

being responsible for persuading his former boss, Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy of Kinglisher, to launch ne lugubrious sign of a faltering stock market is when the biters are bit. the fiercely contested takeover bid for the group's old enemy, Active vampires of the corporate world wake up feeling their naught, thanks to the intervenappetite for takeovers weakened and find strange bite marks on their necks.

Another familiar feature is a

investment trusts. If you are doubtful about shares, you will certainly not rush to buy companies whose business is to own shares. In a unit trust, that's no problem. The trust just shrinks. An investment trust doesn't. Instead, its own shares just fall to a bigger discount against the net market value of their holdings.

Put these two together and you have Colin McLean, Glasgow's suave scourge of under-performing trust managers. The former Templeton trust manager has built his own little stable of trusts around Scottish Value Trust. which aims to prey on weak investment trusts whose shares stand on wide discounts.

Other institutions are his friends, because Mr McClean does their dirty work for them. He may press for a unitisation here, shake up a boardroom there. Most characteristically, he insists on the most proper rules of corporate governance wherever his arrival on a share register sends the company secretary stumbling and shaking into the boardroom.

Under the Scottish Value philosophy, trusts are not run for the benefit of their managers but for the shareholders. One of the board's key duties, therefore, is to агтапде affairs so as to minimise the discount, if any, at which its shares sell.

How embarrassing, then, that shares in Scottish Value Trust now trade at a discount of more than 15 per cent to their underlying asset value — a rather wider discount than the average for conventional trusts. And this in spite of some buying in of Undervalued Assets, a stable

companion that seeks bargain buys, is not much better on a discount of 13.4 per cent, when rival Value and Income manages

a premium. Perhaps Scottish Value needs a shake-up. Mr McLean can probably count on the personal loyalty of other institutional investors, but that is hardly the upright, figures-based, noschool-tie approach he recom-

mends to others. Mind you, market optimists who still think shares are going higher need look no further than a trust on a wide discount that invests in trusts on wide discounts that invest in shares.

#### Another day, another currency

The onward march of the euro, as we all know, is inexorable, propelled by the pragmatic leaders of Europe's business community. Dainler-Benz and Siemens, which ball for the second which hail from a country known for its inexorable qualities, have pledged to conduct operations in euros from the earliest date. Siemens has told UK suppliers and customers that, from October 1999, they will be expected to use euros in dealings with the group's UK business, although sterling will not be inside.

Now Royal Dutch/Shell, Europe's top cross-national business organisation, says that it, too, is planning to change its unit of account. Wait a minute though.

The Anglo-Dutch group has opted for dollars, the common currency of the oil industry worldwide, though, for technical reasons, its two parents must still issue accounts in guilders and pounds unless or until these disappear into the euro.

Shell's timing may be wonky, but its move makes sense, just as it may make sense for Siemens to use the euro. Compare and contrast our other great oil multi-national. British Petroleum is considering adopting the euro as its international unit of account.
Why, pray? Could it have anything to do with Lord Simon of
Highbury, the former BP chairman who is now Gordon Brown's Mr Europe, or with Peter Sutherland, the Irish former European Commissioner who coincidentally now heads BP?

Business should be pragmatic on currency, not act as political stormtroops for the euro project.

#### Liberty fraternité

NEXT week seems set to bring more fun and games in the extraordinary tale of Liberty. After Thursday's truly extraordinary meeting, the company now has a boardroom that could not be more unhappy, with two rebel shareholders elected by a majority of votes, but with the prospect of them being outvoted by the four directors who remain from the previous regime. Time for another extraordinary meeting to oust the chairman again?

### AT&T studies \$12bn bid for US local operator

FROM OUVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AT&T, the largest US telecommunications group, is said to be considering a \$12 billion (£7 billion) takeover bid for Teleport, an American local phone company.

The \$37 billion merger of AT&T's rivals MCI and WorldCom has put pressure on the dominant US longdistance call provider, Analysts said that a deal with Teleport could make a possible alliance with AT&T more attractive for British

The British phone group was outbid by WorldCom in the MCI auction in October, and is now on the lookout for . a new American partner, facing increasing competition

could provide broad access to Negotiations between AT&T

and Teleport are said to be at an advanced stage. The main sticking point is price. AT&T is believed to be reluctant to pay much more than \$10 billion. Teleport's share price rose 10 per cent this week.

Michael Armstrong, the new AT&T chief executive who took over in the autumn, has expressed reservations about the low operating revenue at Teleport last year of \$283

. Mr. Armstrong is under pressure to find a new strategy for the Telecoms giant that is MCI who have invested in Jack Grubman, the Salomon broadening their local custom-

One Wall Street analyst said: "Right now, AT&T has the benefit of the doubt that things will work out. But if they wait too long that benefit will just become doubt."

AT&T has declined to comment on a possible deal. Robert Annunziata, the chief executive of Teleport, said last month: "If someone comes along with an appropriate price we will do what is bestfor our shareholders."

Michael Mahoney, manager of the \$2 billion GT Global Communications mutual fund, said: "I think there is at AT&T was named as one from smaller high-tech service least a reasonable chance that local services possible partner because it providers and from rivals like a deal is going to get done."

analyst who was credited with putting together the MCI-WorldCom deal, said: "We believe there is a strategic attractiveness to this deal for AT&T but the price may be an obstacle.

"It would be a smart but expensive move for AT&T to shore up its local strategy." Teleport - the first and largest competitive local ex-

change carrier in the US primarily serves business An acquisition would provide AT&T with access to local business markets. However, it would still leave the company

searching for a way to provide

#### Grainger sees advance give boost to shares

SHARES in Grainger Trust, the property company, rose from 306p to 325p after it unveiled a rise in pre-tax pre-exceptional profits of 18.5 per cent to £7.7 million. An excep-tional writedown of £14.7 million against the value of the Kennel Farm site was announced in March which left Grainger with a pre-tax loss of E7 million against a £6.5 mil-

lion profit last time. Earnings per share before exceptionals rose 17.3 per cent to 21.7p and the net asset value rose 10.8 per cent to 399p. A final dividend of 5.88p a share makes a 7.5p total for the year. compared with 7p last year.

### Nomura buys Ethical's stake in Phytopharm

BY PAUL DURMAN

NOMURA International, the is "very good at treating Japanese-owned securities firm, has bought a 17.1 per cent stake in Phytopharm, the listed company that aims to develop medicines based on plants.

The purchase from Ethical Holdings, the biotechnology company that abandoned a UK flotation earlier this year, follows the move to Nomura of Erling Refsum, the former Yamaichi pharmaceuticals analyst. Dr Refsum believes Phytopharm's shares had fallen too far for a company that in Zemaphyte had a drug that

eczema" Phytopharm is up against

substantial scepticism because of the difficulties of securing regulatory approval for "botanicals", which, unlike conventional drugs, often involve more than one active compound. Zemaphyte was turned down by the UK Medicines Control Agency last February pending more information. Dr Refsum pointed out that the US Food and Drug Administration has recently granted Zemaphyte investigational new drug status. At the previous market price. Nomura would have paid Ethical £2.4 million for its stake. Ethical is regarded as a forced seller as it attempts to restructure its business.

Richard Dixey, Phytopharm's chief executive, said the value of his company had fallen to a fraction of that of its next biggest peer among the biotech stocks. This was 'ridiculous" given its large portfolio of potential drugs.

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#### Greenwich forced to cut life of goldmine

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE sharp fall in the price of gold has forced Greenwich Resources to shorten the planned life of its Paddington goldmine in Western Australia

The company said it expects Paddington to generate profit for the remainder of the year. Greenwich has a 125 per cent net profits interest in the Paddington goldmine. The owner of the mine, Goldfields Kalgoorlie, said: "In light of the significant fall in the spot price of gold during 1997, a review of the operating plan for the Paddington mine has been undertaken.

The review evaluated several options, from which the board has determined that the Paddington mine will operate for a shortened life of approximately

The statement said this preferred option has been based on a reduction in the mineable reserve, based on current spot and forward prices.

The board also said it has decided that surplus hedge positions, additional to the A\$43.8 million (£17.6 million) already realised and announced on November 25, 1997, will be closed. Abnormal profits arising from this and the previously armounced hedge positions are expected to exceed A\$95 million. However, the abnormal cash

profit is expected to be largely matched by abnormal expenses, depreciation and asset writedowns. Greenwich shares held



Colin Firth and Fever Pitch co-star Ruth Gemmell

#### Cassell issues profits warning

SHARES in Cassell, the publishing group, fell from 792p to 66 p after it warned the market that pre-tax profit for the year to December 31, 1997, will be "significantly below market expectations and last year's level", excluding the profit on the sale of the children's list reported at the

half-year stage. Cassell said that the strong pound and changes in agency arrangements on international sales have continued to that UK sales have been

slower than expected. However, Cassell says that a strong programme for 1998, which includes a new Nick Hornby title, the Cassell Thesaurus and the Cordon Bleu range, will "provide the springboard for a successful year". Fever Pitch, Nick Hornby's first book, topped the bestseller list and was turned into a successful film, with Colin Firth in the lead role. High Fidelity, his second book, was also a big seller.

Cassell says that improved gross margins in 1997 will be enhanced in 1998 through focusing on key titles in line with trends in the consumer trade. New marketing initiatives

in the academic division are expected to redress current British sales shortfalls and steps are being taken to develop the marketing of its

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### Reed expects merger approva

BY RAYMOND SNODDY MEDIA EDITOR

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing and information group, said last night that it expected to get eventual clearance for its planned merger with Wolters Kluwer despite a decision by Brussels to mount a detailed investigation.

The European Commission said in a statement that there were "significant overlaps" between the activities of both companies particularly in the areas of legal

and ray publishing.
The statement added there would be no other publisher in the professional publications sector that was comparable in terms

of financial resources, range of products and geographic scope to the merged entity. This had led the Commission to decide that "there are serious doubts about the compatibility of the planned merger with European merger law.

The Commission now moves to a detailed "second stage" investigation that can take up to four months.

Reed Elsevier pointed out yesterday that the Commission had never investigated the professional publishing market in Europe before and said it was not surprised that the Commission had moved to the next phase.

Mark Armour, finance director of Reed Elsevier, said last night: "The overall

result we expect to be positive." Mr Armour declined to speculate whether the merged entity might be required to sell some of its titles. The Commission investigation need not

necessarily delay completion of the merger. The shareholder meetings to conclude the deal have been scheduled for April 29. The merged group would employ about 42,000 people and have a market capitalisation of about £18 billion. The greatest

dominance of such a merger would come in legal publishing, particularly in the UK and The Netherlands. Reed Elsevier believes that the Commission investigation will reveal a complex pattern of sometimes overlapping niche markets.

### Guinness's Greek chorus lets out something of a Swedish wail

Jon Ashworth

hears how Lord Moyne

hopes to repair his

reputation

Steven Spielberg's Back To The Future will recall the endearingly deranged scientist, who runs about the place shouting "Great Scott!" and conjures up time machines in his laboratory. Christopher Lloyd plays the archetypal mad professor. down to the wild, staring eyes. and swept-back Albert Ein-

stein hairdo. Dress him up like a merchant banker, and you have Lord Moyne, the former Jonathan Guinness, who is alive and well (if somewhat agitated) and grappling with a small matter involving some Swedes and a sizeable money transfer. The peer, whose book on the Guinness Affair, Requiem For A Family Business (Macmillan. £20), was published last month, might well wish he had a time machine at his disposal. Unable to turn back the clock, he is seeking to make the best of a perfectly

ghastly situation. Lord Moyne's problems date to the summer, when he took a controlling stake in Trustor, a Swedish investment company. Nearly E50 million in Trustor funds went missing soon afterwards, passing through Lord Moyne's London bank account en route to an account in Luxembourg. Two Swedes were arrested, a third, Joachim Posener, has vanished, and Lord Moyne has been portrayed as some sort of arch-villain, it is all

very distressing.
The offices of Guinness Management, on the sixth floor of the former Saatchi & Saatchi headquarters in Berkeley Square, simply add to the sense of unease. It looks as though the bailiffs have stripped the place — a matter of having the decorators in, I am later assured. The reception area sports red walls, a



Lord Moyne in his spartan office is confident that his name will be cleared once the Trustor affair is resolved

Persian carpet, some paintings and a cheap-looking brown

"A Swedish journalist who came said it looked like a brothel," Lord Moyne tells me, brimming with indignation. "('ve never been in a brothel. It must be the red walls."

Lord Moyne's office itself is spartan affair. The shelf behind his desk is bare, but for a single Christmas card and a Swedish dictionary. His Swedish has come on well in the past few months.

But what of Trustor? Lord Moyne's version of events is unequivocal. Peter Mattsson, one of those arrested, got him involved with some fellow Swedes, who turned out to be rotten apples. When Lord Moyne and his business associate. Lindsay Smallbone, found out, they took steps to safeguard Trustor shareholders' money. Bruised by events, he nevertheless thinks it could turn out in his favour.

"You can't let it all hang out, because you are dealing with other people's secrets half the time," he explains, in a rather deep, urbane, gravelly voice. "And you're also dealing with a whole lot of loose-tongued provincials in the shape of the Swedes, who have all the time been sort of thinking that I'm the ringleader in this thing. when actually what I'm 99 per cent sure I've done is get the shareholders' money back." Lord Moyne's silence on the

affair - broken by a statement

be kept." The realisation, in late October, that something was amiss, came as an appalling shock, especially as one of these Swedes [Mattsson] was, not a close friend, but someone I've known for years".

Mattsson was a client of Introcom, a public relations firm of which Lord Moyne is a director, and which is run by Michael Wynne-Parker, a man with "a golden address

#### 6 I thought these are decent people, they trust me, I shall trust them 9

saying he had been "let down" by associates - was interpreted as an admission of guilt. "If we'd just gone straight to the police it [the money] would have disappeared. So we had to play along with the criminais, absolutely to the last minute, and then we signed an instruction to the Luxembourg bank saying the money had to

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book" and "staunch and influ-

ential friends". What did Lord Moyne think when the Swedes asked him to act as a front for the purchase the Trustor shares? "I thought they were tax avoiders — or evaders — that's what I thought." So they offered to pay you to act as a front for them? "That was the deal, ves.

It is said, may well be true, that shares were bought with Trustor's own money. If that's the case, and if we get the major money back from Luxembourg, that will actually reimburse Trustor for that."

Will his name be blackened forever? "I think I'll clear my name alright," he says, sound-ing confident. "It might even end up positive. After all, someone had to take that immediate action to get that money back. I think that in the end, certainly if it's spun right, we ought to look very good."

The Swedes were happy to keep everything in Lord Moyne's name, while receiving dividends and directors "Come to think of it, it was rather odd," he concedes. "I thought, you know, these are decent people, they're gen-tlemen, they trust me, I shall trust them — a big factor that, come to think of it."

So how much was he paid for his role as front-man? Millions, no doubt? "Certainly not millions. Somebody found a note in Joe Posener's desk saying that I was to get 20 million kroner, which is wel over a million pounds. I don't know, there may have been such a note, but I didn't get

Why, one wonders, at the grand old age of 67, is Lord Moyne still subjecting himself to this sort of punishment.
"I've got liabilities," he sighs. "I do really need more than I to get a bit of extra income." He is planning a novel about scams - because I've heard of so many now. Not only firsthand experience, but secondhand. I'm beginning to take a

Lord Moyne was a merchant banker during the Fifties and Sixties - principally with Leopold Joseph - but had little experience of due diligence. "It was always somebody else who did that. I was mainly on portfolio investments; sometimes brought a deal in, that kind of thing."

The publicity has undoubtedly helped sales of the book; dovetailing, as it does, with the report of the Guinness inspectors. Lord Moyne thinks the report is flawed - it neglected to investigate dealings in Argyll shares, for instance - but says it has its good points. "I don't think it's been a complete waste of time. I think that the [Takeover] Panel is now aware that it shouldn't be too lax, because of certain decisions that encouraged people to think they could get away with it at that time."

Lord Moyne was a director of Guinness from 1961-88. "I felt a bit like a Greek chorus sometimes. In the Greek trage-dy, the chorus sort of wails when things are going wrong, and nobody listens to it." The accepted view is that Ernest Saunders was brought in to rescue a flagging production. Both Saunders and his detractors exaggerate the troubles at Guinness before he got there. The troubles were real, but they weren't immediate. The thing wasn't going bust the next day, but it did need a

revival." Lord Moyne's life has been anything but dull. The eldest son of Lady Diana Mitford, and the stepson of Sir Oswald Mosley, the British fascist leader, he divided his childhood between England and

Ireland. Eton and Oxford led to a three-year stint with Reuters. and hence to merchant banking. He divides his time between London, where he has a house in Bayswater, and Selbridge in County Kildare the ancestral seat of the Guinness family.

Until two years ago, Lord Moyne lived in Penzance with his girlfriend, Shoe, and their three children, Diana, 16, Astor, 13, and Thomas, 11. They the schools.

Will he persevere with business? "I've rather been put off it, I must say, lately. I will only persevere if I see something really solid and good. And I will do much more investigation than I did before. You've got to put the hounds on to the

### Taxing alibi

A COUPLE of weeks back I mentioned that Geoffrey Robinson, our hard-working Pay-master General and worin every penny, I say, had cut short a meeting with finance industry worthies because of a pressing engagement with the Chancellor. Alas, the excuse may be wearing thin. I hear that Robinson, in charge of the Private Finance Initiative, likewise cancelled a meeting with WS Atkins, the consultancy, because he had an urgent need to see Gordon Brown. A couple of other briefings, too, went the same way, Brown is a hard master, but perhaps Robinson should find another alibi. A sudden need to fly to Guernsey. perhaps?

AS THE Government plans a crackdown on rowdy tenants. Laing Estates has reached a settlement in a long-running dispute against a temporary occupier of Ferguson House in Marylebone Road. Laing had issued a writ for £2.1 million alleging extensive damage that required complete refurbishment. The parties have settled on £195,000. And who was it that did almost £200,000 of domage (admitted) in just three years? The Health and

#### Set alight

JONATHAN GUINNESS better known as Lord Moyne and currently the most prominent scion of la famille maudite - has been having a rough time over his financial dealings, but things could have been different. Something of an eccentric, he spent three years with Reuters before going into merchant banking in 1956, and admits he should perhaps have stuck with journalism. Bank-

ing looked more interesting." Not to judge from an inci-dent at Reuters involving his colleague. Hugo Manning. and the agency's theatre critic, known for his impeccable dress sense. The theatre critic was once very exhausted after going to the theatre and writing his piece, so he was sort of sitting on the desk like that" (Moyne feigns lying slumped on desk, face down) with a whole lot of paper around. Hugo lit the paper with a match. Bloody dangerous. Went all up in flames. I hope he got very bad-ly ticked off."

☐ THE worm has finally turned at the European Parliament. A Belgian deputy has attacked the cost of 128 new the parliamentary offices at a cost of almost £10,000 apiece. The cost has been inflated by the need to fit an entire new drainage system. This sounds about right for the European Community, except that there is little chance of the bath-rooms ever being used. Regula-tions forbid deputies from



spending the night there, and they get a \$150-a-night hotel allowance instead

#### Elstein's goal

DAVID ELSTEIN, chief executive of Channel 5, has made a curious appeal to the BBC. If Chelsea or Aston Villa get to a European cup final, Elstein would like the Beeb to hand over its rights to the game to Channel 5. Earlier this year Elstein made an each-way bet that Chelsea and Asum Villa would do well in the European Cup Winners Cup and the UEFA Cup. So far Elstein's football instincts have been sound. Both teams are going strong, providing a ratings boost for Channel 5, which has the rights to the two competitions. The problem is that if either reach a final. Elstein won't

get a look in. The rights to the finals have been bought by the European Broadcasting Union. Channel 5 is not a member of the EBU; the BBC is. "I think the BBC should give us the coverage if Chelsea or Aston Villa are successful," says Elstein, who says that the BBC has shown little interest in the qualifying rounds of either competitions. His case might not be helped by the fact that he famously snatched the England-Poland World Cup qualifier from under the noses of broadcasters such as the BBC. Now he says he would happily let the BBC have extended highlights of the finals - an hour after the

MARTIN WALLER



### Safeway chief fights for chain trapped between its rivals

an inquisitive eye over the results of their main competitors. However, for Colin Smith, chief executive of the Safeway supermarket chain, Asda's interim results next Thursday are likely to prove an especially anxious read. A strong performance from Asda is likely to harden the City's impression that Safeway now lies firmly at the bottom of the premier league of supermarket retailers.

Safeway has been under pressure since the collapse of merger talks with Asda in September. It emerged with many in the City believing that it was now in a desperate position and vulnerable to a takeover bid. Its disappointing half-year results - which prompted the largest one-day fall in its share price - only hardened this sentiment. There have even been suggestions that Safeway is set to scale back its much-lauded advertising campaign, featuring those precocious toddlers,

Harry and Molly. There are many in the City who believe that Mr Smith's public handling of Safeway's problems has only worsened the situation. Critics claim that he has implied that the poor results are merely a temporary blip - even an act of God but hardly the fault of the management. An accountant by training. Mr Smith has also fallen victim to carping that he

is merely a bean-counter. Others, however, argue that he is so immersed in the business that it is inevitable that some of the relationships with the City will suffer. "Colin does run the business and does not spend a lot of time talking to the analysts," says one analyst. "So when things go wrong he has few friends in the City to argue his case." Mr Smith re-

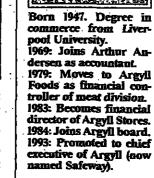


his apparently low-profile approach is something of a myth. I spoke to more than 15 institutions on a one-to-one basis immediately after the results," he says. He also argues that the Safeway board is in truth "a lively, fun bunch" — citing his own appearance as Sporty Spice in the company's Christmas job swap literature.

There is, however, broad agreement between Mr Smith and his City critics on where Safeway's problems lie. It appears to be trapped between the other major players in the market, saddled with a large number of antiquated stores, and struggling to solve serious

supply problems.

Analysts are particularly concerned about Safeway's vulnerability to a resurgent Sainsbury. Clive Vaughan, of Verdict, the retail researcher.



argues that the company's fortunes rise and fall in inverse proportion to those of Sainsbury. When Sainsbury was on the ropes during the past couple of years. Safeway prospered, but now, as Mr Smith freely admits, Sainsbury has been recovering market share - hitting Safeway

Mr Smith's aim is to try to position Safeway farther from Sainsbury, establishing it as the family supermarket. However, analysts believe that there is still a residual belief among consumers that Safe-



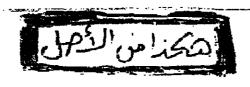
Colin Smith and Safeway's Molly face tough competition

has left Safeway with a dilemma because as Mr Vaughan says: "Safeway is too weak to arm wrestle with Sainsbury over the longer term."

Mr Smith, however, says that Safeway is introducing several key innovations that establish a niche for the company, including a price prom-ise offering products for free if customers find them cheaper elsewhere. "I have a pretty clear vision for Safeway," Mr Smith says. It is a food business that really makes

shopping easier for families. Even Mr Smith's harshest critics accept that his reign has seen the successful implementation of the Safeway 2000 restructuring programme It has shifted from a departmental system of management to one that is more customer-focused, substantially improving sales per square foot and cutting £60 million from costs. Another analyst emphasises innovations such as selfscanning shopping, crèches and discounts for mothers with babies, which other retailers have rushed to explore. Mr Smith has been complimented by imitation," he says.

Here, however, lies Mr Smith's central dilemma - in the ultra-competitive world of retailing, every advantage is quickly eroded. And unless he can provide new answers, the City may soon be asking someone else to implement another vision of Safeway's future. Mr Smith, however, remains convinced that the company has an independent future - for the time being. "We are pushing forward with a clear agenda," he says, adding: At the moment our focus has to be on our own



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Stock Market Writer

### Energis slips as Lehman downgrades its value

NEWCOMER Energis fell sharply after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, began telling clients that the shares are worth 110p less than they were floated at on

Energis ended the session 1312p down at 275p after Lehman's telecom team began spreading the word that they had set a target price for the shares of 180p. That compares with the 290p they were float-ed at after the demerger from National Grid, 414p lower at 28534p. its parent company. The issue had been more than three times oversubscribed.

pending

But Lehman warns that the long-distance telecom market in this country is fiercely competitive at both the service and facilities levels. This is likely to restrict market share, profitability and margins.

There are now five major players in the long-distance market here compared with only four in the much larger. US market. In the meantime, Energis needs to spend more in order to build local access links and merely operate the

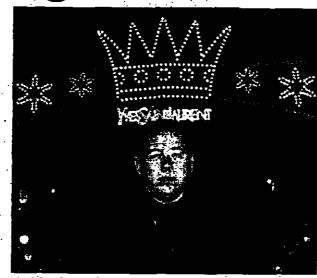
wide band width network. The rest of the equity market ended the week on a steadier note. Prices were marked higher at the outset in the face of another sell-off in South Korea.

Investors placed their faith in a rally on Wall Street, in which they were initially proved correct after publication of a surprise drop in US factory gate prices. The Dow Jones industrial average kicked in with an early 55point rise, but was unable to hold on to it and initial gains

were reversed. The FTSE 100 index closed off its best of the day with a rise of 9.3 at 5,045.2 in the lowest turnover of the week that saw 573 million shares traded. The fall on the week in ... the index was reduced to 97.7.

Hopes that Sedgwick, the insurance broker, may soon find itself at long last on the receiving end of a big from price climbing 8'2p to a new high for the year of 148p. City speculators claimed last night that the bid could arrive as early as next week. At these levels, the insurance broker carries a price tag of £811 million. Willis Corron was

12p firmer at 14112p. Lourho gave up ground, ending 312p lower at 89p amid growing speculation that its bid to acquire the JCI mining



Michael Morris saw Marchpole get off to a good start

operation will end in failure. There were also suggestions that Lonrho had run into a hitch about the sale of its Princess hotels chain.

NatWest Markets has produced its top tips for 1998. They include Shell, 3p lower at 428p, ICI, 12p better at 92812p, British Aerospace, up 15p at £17.44, Pearson, down 17p at 813p, Granada 4p

being seen as a potential suitor for General Accident 12p harder at £10.5412.

Prodential Corporation ended 13p off at 700p as Lehman Brothers altered its recommendation from "buy" to "outperform". Profit-taking left Abbey National 7p lower at £10.28.

BAT Industries responded to positive comments from

Orange, the mobile telephone operator, touched 239p before rallying to limit the loss to 4% p at 245% p. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, created the initial markdown after turning bearish about prospects. Word is increased competition and a slowdown in domestic subscribers are to blame.

higher at 855p, Scottish Hydro, lp firmer at 49912p, BG, 5p higher at 287p, Royal Bank of Scotland, 2p harder at 765p, British Land, 23p stronger at 673p, Bardays, 9p up at E16.36 and the soon to be

merged Diageo." Once again it was the financials that made much of the early running. Lloyds TSB cased Ip to 737p. This time it is being apped to bid for Northern Rock, 15p better at 550p.

Earlier in the week it was

SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, with a rise of 7p at 544p. It has set a target price of 600p for the shares.

Lucas Varity rose 612p to 199p as brokers continued to ponder the news that the group is selling its diesel engine division to Caternillar in the US for £803 million. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, rates the shares a "buy", and rival HSBC James Capel has moved from a "hold" to a "buy". Dresdner

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	Christie's Internation Yule Catto HP Bulmer	2850	+50%p
	HP Bulmer Matthew Clark British Aerospaca	£17.44 .	46p Profits warning +78p Defence industry restructuring 13o Profits warning
1	Cassell	965p 812o	-124pRegulatory review -38%pTrading update
1	Plasmec	225p	+50pAgreed bid from Aden

shares were undervalued and ABN Amro Hoare Govett was also positive. There was a clutch of new issues for traders to absorb. The best performance was

notched up on AIM by Gooch & Housego after a placing of shares in the optical engineer by Sutherlands, the broker, at 105p. The price started life at 123 ap before closing at its best of the day with a rise of 231 p

at 12812p.

Marchpole Holdings,
where Michael Morris is chief executive, also got off to a positive start after a placing at 110p. The price opened at 11912p and raced up to its best of the day, 12312p, a premium of 1312p as almost four million shares changed hands.

General Industries also started life on AIM at 2912p after a placing at 25p. The price finished with a premium of 10p at 35p.

Nomura International, the Japanese securities house which recently established itself as Britain's biggest pub owner with the acquisition of Inntrepreneur, continues to splash out money. This time it has bought a 17.1 per cent stake in Phytopharm from Ethical Holdings. Phytopharm responded to the news with a rise of 712p at

☐ GILT-EDGED: The bond market took heart from the unexpected drop in the November US producer prices. which dealers said reduced some of the pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise inter-

But the London market failed to hold on to its best levels as profit-takers moved in towards the close in order to take advantage of some of the strong gains achieved this

The Bank of England felt confident enough to issue several tranches of existing stock. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished a tick firmer at £121 1732 in active

tracts completed.

in longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 finished E<sup>1</sup>16 better at £121<sup>15</sup>16, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was also a couple of ticks higher at ☐ NEW YORK: Gains were shed as a sell-off in technology By midday the Dow

Amsterdam: Sydney: Frankfurt

Tokyo: Nikkel Average Hong Kong

Singapore: Brussels: 3940.25 (+27,81) Paris:

MAJOR INDICES

2830.26 (+1.81) Zurich: London:

£SDR ...

FT 30

FTSE 100

FTSE 250

FTSE 250

FTSE 250

FTSE 250

FTSE 2475.79 (-4.1)

FTSE 250

2431.7 (-4.1)

FTSE 2470-70 (-1.2)

FTSE 2470-70 (-1.2)

FTSE 2470-70 (-1.2)

FTSE Non Financials 288.92 (-1.55)

FTSE Fixed Interest 13-4.4 (-0.2)

TTSE GOM Secs 101.74 (-0.2)

43976 SEAQ Volume . ... 1.6527 (+0.000E German Mark ... 29306 (-0.00) Exchange Index 103.7 (-0 Bank of England official close (4pm)

THE CENT ISSUES

BG 'B' Bovis Homes Capital Opps Tst Comiand Comm Cresco Intl Firmg Geared Uts Foresight Tech Wis General Inds Manchester & Lon Marchpole Market Link Publ Merajsrussia Nottingham Frst (70) 54 Range Cooker Cmpy 6's Rapid Technology 93's Razorback Vehicles 102's Savoy Asset Mingrat 113's ScS Upholstery 111's Seascope Shipping Second Scot Zr Dv Second Scottish

#### - PIGHTS ISSUES

Green Prop n/p (350) 40 Taylor Nisn n/p (60) 155

İ	MAJOR CHANGES
	RISES: Proteus Inti

700p (-13p)

Jones industrial average was 21.64 points lower at 7,827,35. Closing Prices Page 26 E FURBES

#### TEMPUS

### Saatchi & co reborn

ing back its shares, buying in

Costs have been coming

down, although the market

for showers, doors and such-like is still difficult, reflected

in the 10 per cent discount to

the market that plagues well-

run firms in the sector, If

there is a knock-on effect

from the release of capital

another 800,000 yesterday.

THE TWO halves of Cordiant will go their separate ways on Monday, when trading will begin in Saarchi & Saatchi and Cordiant Communications Group. Investors will have one share in each for every two shares they held in old Cordiant. Although both advertising companies are set to open at 112p, the prices may quickly diverge. While Saatchi & Saatchi is expected to more or less hold its ground, CCG may fall closer to 100p because of its greater exposure to the turmoil in Far

Some observers, including Merrill Lynch, remain to be convinced that the demerger makes sense at a time when other advertising

and media groups are coming together.

However, quite apart from the internal political problems, there are two reasons for suggesting that, in the longer term, the two pieces might be worth more than the unified whole. Bates, the core of CCG, has missed out on some advertising contracts, particularly in the US, simply because of conflicts of intere that go all the way back to the Saatchi brothers original acquisition of the group.

But perhaps the strongest reason for believing that good can come of the exercise is the powerful incentive package that has been put in place. About 140 executives are investing between £50,000 and £150,000 of their own money in the hope that they can turn this into between £800,000 and £2.4 million if they can perform miracles over the

next three years.

Although the highest performance targets may, quite properly, be beyond the ad men, revitalising the culture may enable outside shareholders to share in the uplift in value.

Caradon will be a major beneficiary.

seem to prefer plastic. Yet the

discount of about 35 per cent

to the market understates the

potentional for turning this

Caradon still has problems

#### Caradon

CARADON has an image problem. Some institutions have shown stockbrokers the door even for suggesting they should buy shares in the building materials group. Having Trefor Llewellyn, the former finance director of Wickes, as Caradon's numbers man was sure to un-Llewellyn denied any knowledge of the rebate misuse that caused the Wickes accounting irregularities. Having been burned once, investors are also wary of

housing-related sectors. Caradon is changing, however. Mr Llewellyn has gone but more important is the arrival next May of Jurgen Hintz, who will take over as chief executive with a strong reputation from running Carnaud Metalbox. In the meantime, Caradon is buy-

company around. Buy at receipts to local authority WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

#### S Daniels

MAKING a mess of running food companies is all too easy look at Yorkshire Food. One reason to hope S Daniels will escape similar blunders is that Cyril Freedman and Michael Mills, the ambitious duo who took over two-anda-half years ago, set to work with a clear analysis of the sector's problems and some

persuasive remedies

At first sight, this week's £22 million deal to buy the New Covent Garden Soup Company contradicts that analysis, since the business is avily dependent on the supermarket chains. But although the NCGS has lost share to the supermarkets' continued to benefit from the rapid growth in the market. Additionally, there is a big opportunity to increase sales to pubs and the catering trade, to piggy back on Daniels' orange juice distribution network, and to ex-

product development skills to Daniels' fresh fruit business. This is the eighth acquisi-

tion that Mr Freedman has made in assembling a £60 million business that also takes in chocolate drinks vending and tea and coffee. With few institutional shareholders, Daniels' shares have remained doggedly unimpressed and now stand at 372p. That is only 8.3 times earnings that are heading for 4.5p next year. When the full benefits of the NCGS deal start to come through in 1999. Williams de Broe reckons earnings will rise by almost a willing to wait for the City to latch on to the story. Daniels

#### Phytopharm

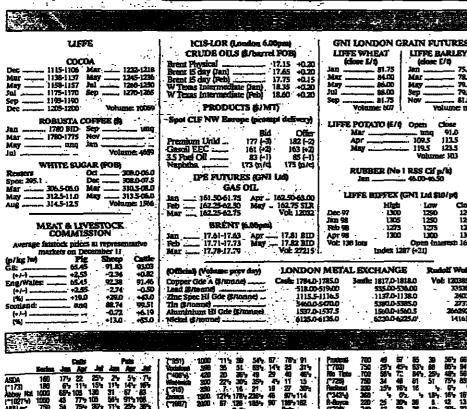
EVEN by the dismal stan-dards of the biotech sector. Phytopharm has had a rotten year, its value falling by three quarters to only £14 million.

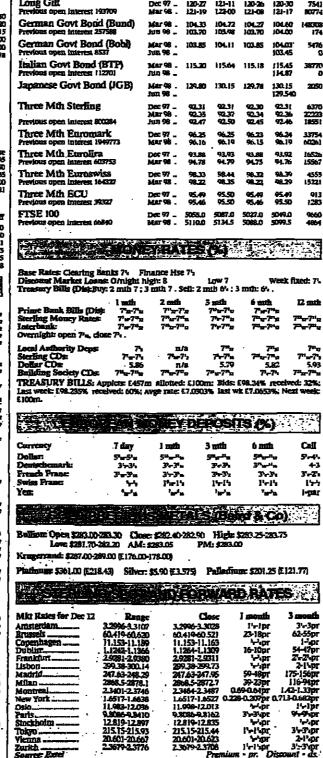
potentially important eczema treatment through phase III trials. This, at least, is the view of Nomura, which has bought the 17.1 per cent stake held by struggling Ethical

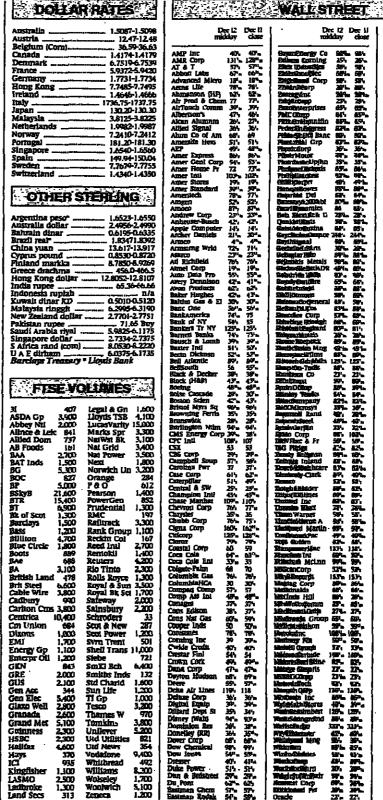
Holdings. Phytopharm's difficulty is that it is always likely to be the first to be doubted when investors grow nervous of "botanicals", drugs based on plants and traditional herbal remedies, and very different from conventional medi-

In fact, Phytopharm has just scored a breakthrough treatment being granted in-vestigational new drug status in the US. This is important evidence that regulators are prepared to take these medi-

For Zemaphyte and other promising products to reach the market will require a true for investors tempted to







gh. to 1pm -tephoae ded the aarks of

SECTION

Cheisea's top men: The

coolest football manager

Ruud Gullit.......Page 8

Chemical agents: Super

sleuths in Iraq ..... Page 16

Season of the will. The

charity con men... Page 37 Food: Marco Pierre White

reveals the best-value

Michelin-starred restau-

rant in London .... Page 53

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and death..... Page 6

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O'Hardon..... Page 18

Music: Box sets.... Page 13

Books: The millennium

Film: Cinders..... Page 24

Listings: Theatre, clubs, opera, dance, exhibitions,

panios ...... Pages 28-47

#### NEWS

#### Robinson 'kept Treasury in dark'

■ Geoffrey Robinson, the minister under pressure over his financial affairs, was accused of being "economical with the truth" when seeking advice from senior civil servants. The charge was made by Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, who claimed that Mr Robinson had kept the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury in the dark about the nature of his Guernsey-based trust and that his conduct conflicted with the code of conduct for ... Pages 1, 18, 19, 20

#### Blair claims victory in euro battle

Britain and France remained locked in a ferocious battle over the single currency with both sides claiming victory after a deal on membership of the "club" managing the euro ..... Pages 1, 23

#### Labour's radio threat

Labour is to pull ministers off the air if Today presenter John Humphrys persists in interrupting ... Page 2

#### Music world shocked Vincent Meyer, president of the

Philharmonia Orchestra, was formaily accused in Switzerland of manshaughter, rape and sexual acts against a minor ...... Page 3 Sporting rules

Independent school pupils who shout abuse at opposing players or officials should be hanned from sports events ...

#### Heathrow inquiry

Experts are investigating how a fire above a hamburger restaurant at Heathrow's Terminal One par-... Page 5 alysed the airport ....

#### BBC shoots down jet

A Panorama programme criticising the £40 b Eurofighter project is going ahead, despite the threat of ... Page 6

#### Churchill's art

The largest exhibition of Churchill's paintings next month will prove that he was more than just an enthusiastic amateur.... Page 8

#### 'Labour whingers' Women Labour MPs who com-

plain about sexism are spoilt and over-sensitive, say their Tory counterparts... .... Page 10 Thai agony

Thai matrons are leasing out their Gucci handbags and Versace outfits as the baht takes a battering. Young executives are trying to sell their mobile telephones ... Page 13

#### Kremlin denjal The Kremlin was at pains to dis-

miss reports that President Yeltsin is seriously ill...

#### Child support

In a week when runaways were big news, Libby Purves says to coddle and hothouse a child pose different dangers .....

#### A virtual merry Christmas to you

Traditional seasonal tidings are taking the most modern route via e-mail as the number of people with electronic mail addresses increases each day. The fad this Christmas is to send virtual cards to colleagues, friends and family ....



A model of victorious Zulu impis over the British Army in the 1879 Zulu War was among an auction of toy soldiers from the Forbes collection

Simon Jenkins: Commercial

television this Christmas will

be "brought to you" by the

Panasonic Corporation of

Roger Scruton: Which group

of law-abiding people will be

next to offend the suburban

prudes who govern us? The

answer for the moment is

clear: smokers ...... Page 22

OBITUARIES :: -

..... Page 22

Japan .....

#### NEWS FEATURES

Valerie Grove: Colin Blakemore's single-minded dedication to careful eating springs from his awareness of mortality.... .. Page 21

Radio star: Britain now has a media tycoon who speaks directly to his customers nationwide over breakfast each day. sharing his thoughts on the state of the nation. It sounds like a joke character from a movie. In fact, it is Chris ...Page 9

Villa D'Este: Borgia's fountains, infested with salmonella, are threatened with

#### COLUMNS OPINION

Blair's X factor: Tony Blair and his Chancellor retreat from Luxembourg as the familiar "born losers" of Euro-.... Page 23 diplomacy... Values of the heart: Philip Lawrence's sacrifice and val-

ues should not be forgotten and the more who can commit themselves to supporting the ideals of good citizenship, the more effective the commemoration of his powerful example. ..Page 23

#### LETTERS Isas. Tessas and Peps: beef

ban; rural life ..... Page 23 can athlete..

Simon Jeffes, composer and leader of the Penguin Cafe Orchestra; R.J. Washington, potter: Rod Milburn, Ameri-.. Page 25

#### Asian crisis: The IMF will debate new ways to help

countries cope with financial

BUSINESS

crises in Asia..... South West Water: South West Water is paying up to £105 million for Terry Adams Ltd, a waste disposal group with sites across England. The deal makes South West one of the leading landfill companies in the

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 9.3 points to close at 5045.2. Sterling's trade-weighted in-dex fell to \$1.6527 and to DM2.9306 .... .....Page 31 British racing......Page 42

Page 27

#### SPORT Football: Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were each given a sus-

victory in the women's World Cup ...... Page 35 Racing: Sheikh Mohammed is being asked to address MPs and peers

about his threat to leave

pended six-month suspension and a £10,000 fine for misconduct \_\_\_\_\_Page 33 Rugby union: Clubs in England's top divisions welcome back their players after a month of internationals Page 41 Cricket: England secured

WEEKEND Little devils: Inside the Westminster Abbey Choir School ..... Pages L3

man....

Fashion: Dresses to make your boss blush ..... Page 5. Home life: The stress of Christmas for divorced ..... Page II couples .... Travel: India: New York: Chile: Austria: Switzerland ...... Pages 19-25

Full seven-day guide to television and radio

Kids comic with Disney's smash Christmas film

#### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20.662

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

**ACROSS** 

Name/Address

- 1 Boring collection of notes (8).
- 5 Missile to face Chinese craft (6). 9 The old-fashioned term "charisma" needs changing (8).
- 10 Mix socially with aristocrat that's on the shelf (6).
- 12 Ill-mannered whether head is
- present or not (5). 13 Its leader takes a bow (9).
- 14 Key man in hair of vivid hue (8.4). 18 Choosing the same person again
- to collect cement (12). 21 Derby date arranged for Flyte's
- animal Aloysius (5-4). 23 Not within respectable limits? (5).
- 24 Inhibition, getting ring off (4-2). 25 Hitting out (8).
- 26 Drag into the river and drown (6).
- 27 Discontinue session with pub-
- licity agent, a scoundrel (8).

I Discover about new form of ecstasy (6).

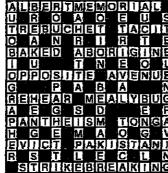
Solution to Puzzle No 20.656

2 Make good theatre available across half of county (6).

- 3 Peas and chips cooked together in vessel — out of this world! (9).
- 4 Failed to understand how girl, so
- to speak, got pregnant (12). 6 Came to give permission in fear
- 7 Alternative for plait on youth's head? (8). 8 State breaks out in an uprising (8). 11 One who renders the raw ma-
- terial for soap (12). 15 Has he travelled right round Lido? Possibly (9).
- 16 Wife was sick and miserable (8). 17 Such very important points seen
- in news (8). 19 A number of horses making way
- to arena (6). 20 On foot, hunt for black bird (6). 22 What, after start of year, old

Solution to Puzzie No 20,661

antelope raised? (5).



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#### AA INFORMATION

The Met. Office

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AA Car reports by fax id used car reports from a menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Calls are charged at 50p per minere at all terres

#### HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets 3 52 pm Moon sets Moon rises 3.59 pm 6.42 am London 352 pm to 7 59 am Bristol 4 31 pm to 8 68 am Edinburgh 3 38 pm to 8 37 am Manchester 3 49 pm to 8 18 am Pentance 4 20 pm to 8 14 am

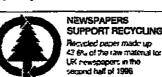
Sun rises: 759am 7.46 em Full moon today

London 3 52 cm to 8 00 am Bristol 4 02 pm to 8 09 am Edinburgh 3 38 pm to 8 38 am Manchester 2 49 pm to 8 19 am Pentance 420 pm to 8 15 am

TODAY P3200045553310375118423012828000433716549622711842302716657165496237 H744668668447749768888888227772831-954

HIGH TIDES

**HIGHEST & LOWEST** 



#### **FORECAST**

General: eastern Scotland will be mostly dry with some good sunny breaks, but western Scotland will be cloudy with a little rain at times. Northern cloudy with a little rain at times. Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with early sunshine giving way to an increasing risk of light rain during the afternoon. England and Wales will have a bright, fresh day with patchy cloud and sunshine, before a frost sets in after dark. It will feel rather cold in the South and East, but milder in

the North and West. London, SE England, E Anglia, Cent S England, Midlands, E Eng-land, Channel Isles, SW England, Cent N, NE England: dry with good spells of sunshine, but a frost early and late. A light northwesterly wind. Max 9C

☐ Wales, NW England, Lake District, isle of Man: dry and bright at first but becoming more cloudy by attempon. A erly wind. Max 8C (46F). ☐ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee,

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain later.

☐ Northern Ireland: a few bright spells at first; mostly cloudy with light rain later. A moderate southwesterly wind. Max

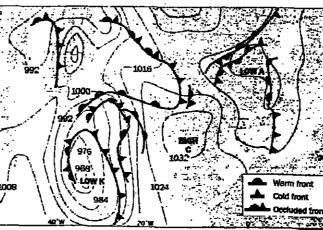
11C (52F). ☐ Republic of Ireland: mainly dry with some bright or sunny spells but cloud thickening with rain, likely to be heavy in places, during the afternoon and eve-

Outlook mostly dry and bright with some sunshine, but increasingly cold with sharp night frosts. Southern and eastern England will have a noticeable wind-chill early next week with a growing risk of light show flurries.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

0.01 0.05 0.01 0.03 0.01 0.01 0.01 0.01

ABROAD Corfu or Criphago Dudain Dubrown Fazo Fore Germee Frankun Frankun Frankun Germea Gerbarkun Hong k. krusbrok kistanbul Jeddah Jo Burg Karashi L. Pailmas L. Pailmas L. Pailmas L. E. Toues L. E. Toues L. E. Lesbon L. Lesbon Riyadh Rome S Frisco Satzburg Sentiago Seoul Sing'por Strisbolm Strasb'ng Sychely Tengler Tolyo Toronto Tunis Valencia Vance Vierrae Warnaw Wash'ton Wel'ngsbar Zunch Majorra Malaga M 



Changes to the chart above from noon high C will build and drift northeastwards; low K will move north and is expected to fill; complex low A will fill while chilting southeastwards

Orkney, Shetland: sunny intervals at first, but clouding over. A moderate erly wind. Max 9C (48F).

A light or moderate southwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

ning. Wind treshening southerly. 10C (50F).



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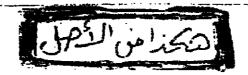
free Loather carry case In car adapter free 3 menths free Fast delivery save OVER £330

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R







Party dresses to make your boss blush





Would you pay £20,000 for this bijou residence?

Page 12



Where the stars stay in London and New York

Pages 20,21



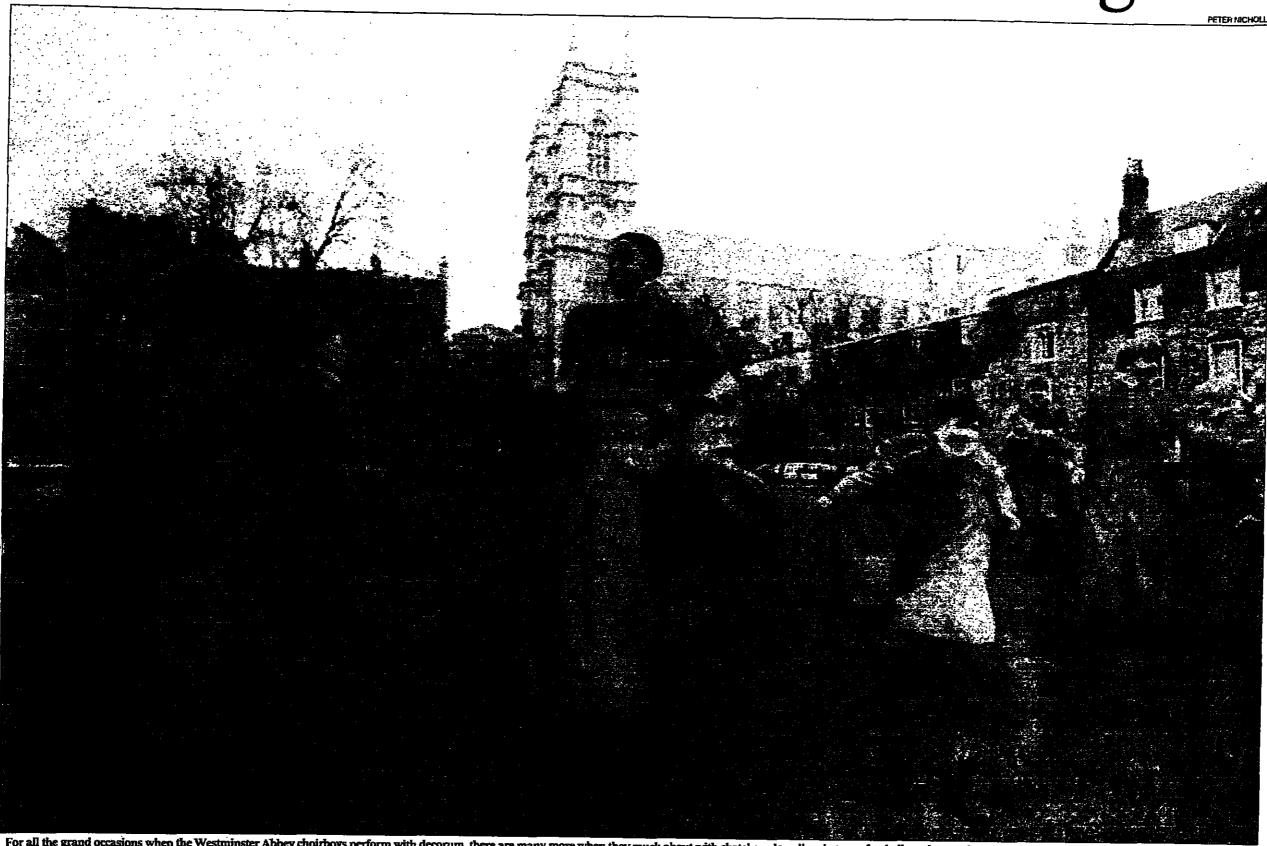
Santa's gifts to sleigh Bonzo and Felix

...

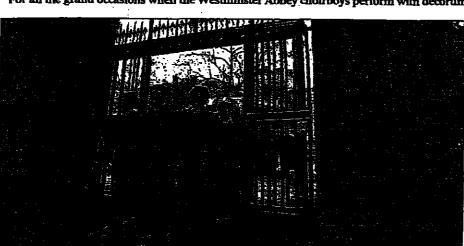
THE TIMES

# VEEKEND

### Little devils who turn into angels



For all the grand occasions when the Westminster Abbey choirboys perform with decorum, there are many more when they muck about with skateboards, roller-skates or footballs — the match against St Paul's choir is as bitter as any London derby



Robed and ready to sing their hearts out: the boys file into the abbey for a rehearsal

Andrew Yates

(right, 25 years ago) goes behind

the scenes at Westminster

Abbey Choir School to see how

a bunch of boys turn into an

angelic host



n Monday, September I this year, little more than 24 hours after Diana, Princess of Wales had been killed in a car crash in Paris, Martin Neary, the organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey, was given guidelines for the funeral service.

After hearing of the crash, he had spent most of his time trying to anticipate what music might be requested if the service was to be held at the abbey. And by lunchtime on Monday it was clear that he would have to bring the choristers back from their summer holidays. One boy was in Brazil, one was in Canada and another in Portugal. But they managed to get flights to join their colleagues in time for the first rehearsal at the Abbey's song school on Wednesday evening. The choir-

.16 TRAVEL...

boys had plenty to do, as one of them explained: "There was a great deal of music to learn and the full service details

were still not complete." The next couple of days involved a mixture of rehearsals in the Abbey's song school and free time. "We managed to play football, swim. play table-tennis, snooker and, of course, watch television to see if we were mentioned - which we were most days," he said. "It was strange to see it all on television when we knew that the events were all taking place just outside our school."

Dr Neary began that first evening rehearsal for the funeral service by asking the boys to think how they would feel if their mother had died, since Prince Harry

19-25 | GAMES......27,28

Continued on page 3

Z GARDENING 6,7 COUNTRY LIFE. PROPERTY.... ..12-14 PETS...

ECO-DRIVE BY CITIZEN. SIMPLY LIGHT YEARS

AHEAD.

15 FAITH ..

The Citizen Eco-Drive Slim Collection, Environmentally-friendly, these watches are powered purely by light, giving Quartz accuracy without ever having to change the battery. See the light, choose Eco-Drive.





racks of

'Stamping the Union flag on burgers will do no more for beef sales than it did for British motorbikes or bags of coal'

### Just beefing about meat is not the answer

40-tonne juggernaut with Irish number plates crawls past the huddle of jeering Welsh beef farmers picketing the dockyard road. As it rumbles slowly by, a grey-haired man, the rain dripping from his bush hat. stares in disbelief at the seemingly endless trailer. How the hell many beefburgers can they get in that great thing?" he mutters.

The answer is a very large number. And for every load the port protesters succeed in dumping in the sea there will be score or more similar trucks en route to other UK entry points.

The present plight of British beef farmers owes less to an uncomprehending and hostile government than to the machinations of a global food system. So completely have we consumers swallowed the notion of our foods being pro-cessed, flavour-enhanced, tenderised and generally mucked about with, that the products on our supermarket shelves can be sourced from almost anywhere on

the planet. When a new cartle disease puts a question mark against the safety of British beef, the multinational burger chains can switch their sourcing countries as easily as they change staff uniforms. When international currency swings present supermarkets with a

their margins, they would have to be saints to turn it down, particularly as their customers are never likely to know the difference.

It is the instant ability of international food brokers to manipulate the flow of processed products which is a primary cause of the beef market collapse.

The response of beleaguered UK producers is to launch what is, in effect, a "Buy British" campaign. This certainly makes more sense than the floating of freezer packs of Irish beef out into Liverpool Bay. But it remains doubtful whether stamping the Union flag on a box of burgers will do any more for sales than it did for British motorbikes or bags of coal.

To secure their future in the long

term, farmers will need to change public attitudes to food. They will have to convince the people of these islands that the local product is the best-tasting and safest food around. Without such a cultural shift there seems little prospect of a lasting revival in the fortunes of the family farm, no matter how much more cash can be wrested from long-suffering taxpayers.

It all used to be so different. In the good old days the beef farmer would truck a couple of fat steers down to the local market for auction, secure in the knowledge that a handful of prominent local



Jean Clark, a Devon farmer, protesting with others this week outside a frozen-food plant at Lee Mill

the bidding. Should there be a couple of unknown buyers from up-country to enliven proceedings,

so much the better. But the chances were that those steers would end up on a hook at the back of the local meat shop. The butcher would know his customers and suppliers. And there was every likelihood that he

would be back at the market buying similar beasts the next week. Today the world is very differ-

ent. The family butchers are fast disappearing from our high streets. The new buyers bidding at the auction ringside are players in a global game — buying for the multinational food companies with worldwide brands, switching their buying power from country to country as easily as currency

speculators. Arable and dairy farmers have begun to wake up to the new market realities. Many are busy "rationalising" their holdings swallowing up their smaller neighbours to create factory-scale enterprises. The 5,000-acre arable

farm and the "feedlot" dairy unit with hundreds of cows under one roof are no longer rarities in the new competitive landscape of rural Britain.

It is these larger farmers, together with the growing new breed of contract-farming companies, who are the chief beneficiaries of the billions spent by the public each year to support British agriculture.

Struggling beef producers demand more money from taxpayers to offset the damaging effects of a strong currency. But no one proposes clawing back some of the hundreds of millions overpaid to cereal growers when a weak pound worked to their advantage.

It is easier to blame the troubles on a supposed town-country divide and the indifference of an urbanminded government. Yet it is hard to see how a government can be accused of urban bias when it taxes its citizens by £2.5 billion a year - and inflates their living costs by twice as much again - in order to support farmers.

This is not to say that British beef producers are wrong to demand a level playing field when competing with other EU member states. And there is surely a case for compensating them for losses resulting from the export ban. But they cannot expect to be bailed out by taxpayers every time their

markets are swamped in a global trading tide. If we insist on viewing farm products as mere commodities to be bartered on world markets, then no amount of public hand-outs will keep the "For Sale" signs from farm en-trances up and down the land.

the more imaginative response might be for Britain's farmers to embark ona sustained campaign to change consumer habits. They can set out to show that locally produced foods are tastier and probably better for you than those that are shipped half way round the globe. For good measure, they might even try demonstrating that family. farms can do a better job of keeping the wild flowers in the meadows and songbirds in the

hedgerows. It cannot be coincidence that the one group of producers which is not complaining about falling returns or demanding a massive rescue package from the taxpayer are Britain's organic farmers. For

them these are the boom times. The message for those hard-pressed livestock farmers would

Graham Harvey

The writer is a farming journalist and author of The Killing of the Countryside (Jonathan Cape, £15,99).

seem to be clear.

butchers were likely to dominate chance to buy cheaper and to boost A STATE OF THE STA Many pastoral scenes could vanish with the decline in agricultural employment and the exodus of young people from villages to seek work in towns. An NFU survey reveals that about 20,000 farms could be abandoned within a generation Trust would be powerless to

### Dilemma down on the farms

An increasing number of farmers are being forced

to make money in other ways. John Young reports

the northern end of the Peak National Park. the industrial lowlands of Lancashire give way to the high, wide sweep of the Pennines. Graham Heathcote has farmed here for the past 43 years. However, while the 70acre holding which he bought in 1970 supports a herd of about 60 beef cattle, including 30 suckler cows, it has long since ceased to support him

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the Deep

and his family. "No one in these parts can live off beef farming alone," he says.
"Prices have dropped horrendously. Five years ago I paid 1945 at Carlisle market for a Limousin cow in calf. A year later I paid £700. Last week cows were going for £330, but I don't buy cartle any more. I breed my own and sell what I don't want for what I can get."

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the only way to keep going Now 70, he is resigned to the fact that none of his six children, three boys and three girls, will follow him into the business. I wouldn't encourage anyone to go into farming Like almost all his neighbours. Mr Heathcote needs to these days." He anticipates no difficulty

in selling the property when he retires - the house is listed and only 25 minutes from the centre of Manchester where there are plenty of potential buyers in search of attractive rural retreats. But the farm itself, of which there are records dating back to 1712, will almost certainly be broken up, and another fragment of England's rural patchwork will disappear. A survey by the National

supplement his income with a

second job, in his case as a

plant hire contractor. I have

three tractors which I hire to

people like the local council and the water authority. It's

Farmers Union shows that low incomes, long working hours and the lack of longterm stability, rather than isolation and lack of amenities, are what deter young people from hill farming. That was broadly confirmed by the answers to questionnaires sent out by Rural Stress Information Network, a charity set up about a year ago to examine the incidence of stress and



Graham Heathcote's farm cannot support his family. "Hiring out my tractors is the only way I can keep going"

suicide within the farming

community.
Nick Reid, the charity's director, pointed out that many hill farmers enjoyed an isolated way of life but were dismayed by the decline of village communities, particularly in Cumbria and Wales, losing not just schools and shops but also friends and neighbours. It would be simplistic to equate stress with financial uncertainty, though there were enormous difficul-

ties in planning ahead.

The NFU has forecast that farm incomes will be shown to have fallen by 45 per cent this year compared with 1996. Market prices were lower for nearly all products, notably grain, beef, milk and potatoes,

while fruit and vegetable yields were damaged by late spring frosts and the dry summer. But the main culprit, farmers say, has been the strong pound, which has damaged exports and made imports cheaper.

7 hile beef exports have been banned Y anyway because of fears about BSE, cheap imports from Ireland in particular have further depressed the market Although Britain could claim compensation under the EU price support mechanism, the Government has declined to do so because the sums would have to be matched by the Exchequer. Nearly half the farmers

interviewed in the survey said their children would not be taking over when they retired. Since nearly two-thirds of the respondents were over 50, in theory some 20,000 hill farms could be abandoned within a generation.

That does not necessarily mean that all the land would cease to be grazed or cultivated. Some of it would probably find purchasers, but some of the more remote holdings are undoubtedly at risk. Since these tend to be in the most scenic uplands — national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of scientific interest — the environmental consequences could

be highly damaging.
Townspeople visiting places

such as the Yorkshire Dales, for example, often seem only dimly aware of the links between agriculture and landscape, even though it is par ently obvious that nature's work has been enhanced by generations of traditional farming and the creation of admired features such as drystone walls, hedges, small enclosed fields and the farm buildings themselves.

If the sheep and cattle disappeared from the hillsides, grass and moorland would quickly revert to scrub. with disastrous results, not only scenically but also for wildlife and especially birds such as grouse, plover and hen harrier. Park authorities and landowners like the National

er importance to local economies than other kinds of Tarming in what EU jar-gon defines as "less favoured" areas, effectively another name for uplands, produces about twothirds of the nation's suckler cows and breeding ewes, and

more than a quarter of its

milk, and employs about

prevent wholesale degrad-

the destructive so-called factory farming, heavily dependent on chemicals and expensive machinery, which has changed the face of much of lowland Britain. It is also

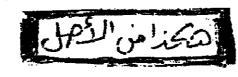
comparatively labour intensive and consequently of great-

Hill farming has for the most part escaped modern improvements" and thus provides an essential antidote to

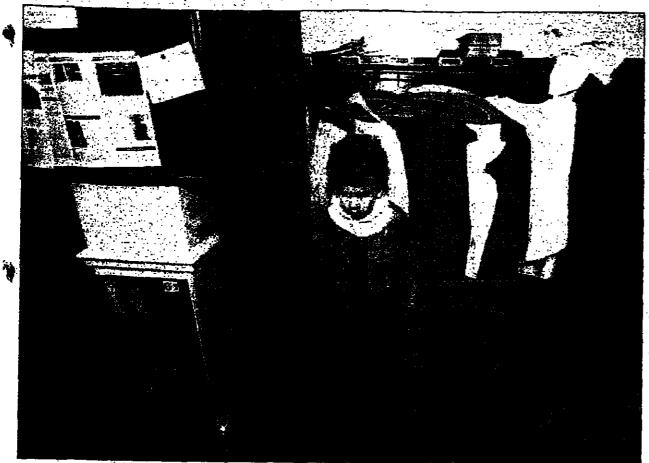
170,000 people directly and many thousands more in associated industries. A study by the University of Aberystwyth suggests that for every ten people engaged directly in beef and lamb production, another 25 are employed in the sale and processing of

animals and foodstuffs. In the past 50 years the decline in agricultural employment and the exodus of young people from villages to seek work in towns and cities has been an important factor in the closure of schools, shops and public services. At the same time, their parents have increasingly turned to supplementing their incomes by providing bed and breakfast to

tourists. Today's is a harsh climate for arguing the case for subsidies to farming as much as to industry or the arts. But there do seem to be sound reasons. both economic and environmental, for thinking that the hill farmer deserves better.



Tally of coals



was the same age as some of singing their hearts out.

Despite the short notice and the overbearing media attention, the 24 Westminster choristers performed impeccably at the funeral, unfazed by the size of the event or by performing alongside Elton John.

In November, the Westminster choristers were back on television, singing at the royal golden wedding anniversary service. That they again met everybody's expectations was par for the course, because they are highly trained choris-ters who sing for a minimum of three hours a day.

Roger Overend, the headmaster at the abbey school, which is the one choir school in the country educating choristers only, suggests that they enjoy the trappings of fame. They can even be rather prima donna-ish," he says. As in, Oh no, not another CD to record, we've only just done one"."

At a rehearsal I attended this week. Dr Neary asked his boys why they never sang out of tune. "Because we're a good choir. Because we're the best. Because we're cool," came the boyish replies. "No," he retorted. "It's because I won't

s a former chorister was a hard task-master when, in the early 1970s. I was in the choir at Winchester Cathedral, where he was choirmaster. "Some may think he drives the boys too hard," one parent lays of the current bunch at Westminster, "but the choir's ability speaks for itself and I have never come across a chorister who didn't enjoy it." Another said: "It is incredible that he gets those little boys to sound like that."

Westminster holds voice trials for newcomers three times a year. Out of 40 or 50 entrants, about seven are offered a place and put on probation for a year to see if they can stand the pace. Some

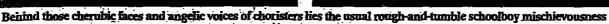
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new boys are so small that For the little chorister (top and above) singing means early mornings and standing on a box





see over the choir stalls. The advantage of joining the choir is to get one of the bestmusical educations, with a virtual guarantee of a musickeholarship to the next school. "All the boys at Westminster play two instruments: there's a piano in every classroom, and even one in the dormitories.

The school fees of £3,000 a year are hugely subsidised, with an average of only seven pupils to a class. The disadvantage is the

commitment: three hours of singing a day, starting with a rehearsal at 8.25 every morning — after half an hour's instrumental music practice. Boarding is the only option with such a regime.

Most choirboys have to stay at school until Christmas Day, Easter Day and for an extra wo weeks in summer during the holidays. At Winchester, after the rest of the boys had gone home, the treat was that we were allowed to buy sweets I no longer had to smuggle in pear-drops or sherbert

fountains in my violin case. .... Beneath their cassocks, classroom window and we choirboys still have these would lower a basker on a

they have to stand on bexes to pockets: conkers, string, rubber bands, a sticky sweet and pencil rubber. During "bor-ing" sermons, we would play dot-cricket under our surplices. Even when singing angelically in front of the bishop, we could be

kicking each other stalls. When we walked through the Close at Winchester in a crocodile, and American tourists gawped and gushed about how sweet we

would scuff our

shoes and some times thumb our noses at them. At Westminster, James Wilkinson, who became the BBC's science correspondent and is now secretary of the Westminster Abbey Old Choristers' Association, remembers singing for the Coronation. "It provided ample opportunity for capitalising on tourists who flocked to see the abbey," he says. The queues through Dean's Yard passed below our

please. It always came back full — until we were caught and the basket confiscated." Mr Wilkinson also recalls how Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein stayed at the choir school

before the service and how, after the 'Sweet? full-dress rehearsal, returned for supper with the choir. "He insisted Under the on remaining in stalls we his Garter robes and, as he pushed kicked his fork into a tomato, it burst, showeach other ering him with pips. Everyone tensed, waiting for

his reaction, but he laughed and said: 'See that, boys? Burst like a bomb; just like a bomb'." For all the grand occasions in the abbey where the choristers perform with due decorum, there are many more when they muck about with skateboards, footballs (the match against the choir at St Paul's is as bitter as any London derby) and rollerskates. But the discipline in-

stilled by life at a choir school Last Saturday, Dr Neary's boys were allowed to sleep in after singing Handel's Messiah to a sell-out audience at the abbey the night before. But on Sunday, they were back with Matins, Eucharist and Evensong, as well as all the associated rehearsals. On Monday evening, they

will sing a Christmas concert at the Barbican, with the English Chamber Orchestra. And they will continue singing until December 28 before going on holiday. In the longer term, they

have to churn out their CDs -

their latest, just out, is a selection of favourite hymns. Their professionalism en-abled Westminster Abbey's Rev Dr William Beaver to predict with confidence that the choristers would turn in a performance to remember at the Princess's funeral: "You wait," he said, "you'll never have heard anything like it in your life. Their sound is so pure and sweet, it's like bringing God nearer to the people."

People shoudl remember that beneath those ruffs, surplices and cassocks, the choristers are ordinary fun-loving boys -- even if they are the best





The day's three hours of singing starts with rehearsals at 8.25am, with Martin Neary, the Master of the Choristers

#### 'Fierce matrons, icy bathrooms'

The pressures of choir school can have a life-long

effect, says

Philip Delves

Broughton t takes a special kind of

fathead to imagine that the life of a choirboy is one long Trollopian idyll. For all those who boast of how the discipline and training pre-pared them wonderfully for life, there are many whose lives are forever coloured by the pressure to succeed and the vertiginous lear of failure impressed on them so young.

Michael Mates, the Conservative MP for East Hampshire, attended Salisbury Cathedral School from 1943-47. If you ever wondered where all the chest-puffing swagger he displayed as a Tory minister came from, here lies the answer.

Mr Mates is from the nostalgist school of choirboys. He has said of his time at Salisbury: "What has remained with me is the beauty of the music, the solemnity of the Book of Common Prayer and the majesty of the King James's Bible. Add to this one of the most beautiful cathedral closes in Britain, with the soaring grandeur of the cathe-dral, and it is easy to understand it is an idyll which will stay with me to my grave."

The giveaway phrase there is "the Book of Common Prayer". While his fellow choirboys were tying knots in each other's surplices, young Mates was turning to blanemange over Cranmer. Such boyhood behaviour leads inevitably in later life to support for family values as a votewinning political platform.

experience of Jon Snow, the broadcaster and presenter of Channel 4 news. Like many choirboys. Snow came from a clergy household. His father was the Bishop of Whitby. Snow was a chorister at Winchester Cathedral from 1956-61. Though he loved it at the time, it is not an experience he would necessarily want for his own children.

As well as soaring top notes and Gothic arches, the chorister's life was also about small boys wetting their cassocks in fear during Matins, about icy bathrooms, fierce matrons, and, most importantly, being



Choir days: Jon Snow (left) and Sir David Willcocks

away from your family. "But it was great fun staying on for Christmas, St Stephen's day and Easter," Snow says. There were turkey feasts in the deanery and egg-andspoon races with the clergy." When the other boys were off for Christmas, the 16 choristers left behind for the "stayon" were pampered by those in the cathedral and town.

The surrogate life provided by the cathedral and did little for his relations with his own family. Snow has written "From this familial wreckage emerged a confident, over-independent child selfish, ego-massaged opera-tive. It took me years to recover. Literally, I loved that building and its life more than my own family."

Advocates of choir-school

life like to emphasise the tremendous "discipline" instilled in choristers. Sir David Willcocks, the former organist at King's College Cambridge, sang as a chorister at West-minster Abbey from 1929-34. His choirmaster was Sir Ernest Bullock, whom he later succeeded as director of the Royal College of Music. Being a chorister was a wonderfully busy life," he says. "I learned about discipline and concentration. Not many small boys have to concentrate as hard as

choristers." Sir David, whose arrangements of Christmas carols will be heard thousands of times this month, adds: "From the moment I arrived at the abbey, it never occurred to me that I wanted anything other than music. I wanted to play the organ like other boys

wanted to be engine drivers."



Bermondsey Simon Hughes

ent of either intense sadness at the fading of the limelight or rejoicing at the liberation Thatcher's former adviser Sir Charles Powell (Canterbury

from the dreaded discipline of the choir. "I was on stage at the Champs-Elysees Theatre in Paris," Hemmings says, "in the middle of a long solo aria. Choir School), the wine writer Oz Clarke (also Canterbury). It was an abrupt end of the Tory MP for Salisbury innocence. But when you are that young, you are not so frightened. You don't realise and bishop's son Robert Key (Salisbury Choir School), and the Liberal Democrat MP for until later in life how much

was riding on what you did."

best known for his role in the

Sixties film Blow Up, sang as

a boy at the Chapel Royal at

Hampton Court Palace. He

had been encouraged to sing

by his mother and father, who

was a dance-band planist.

"Being a choir boy was hor-

rid. I was always the one who

found ink spots down the back of my shirt."

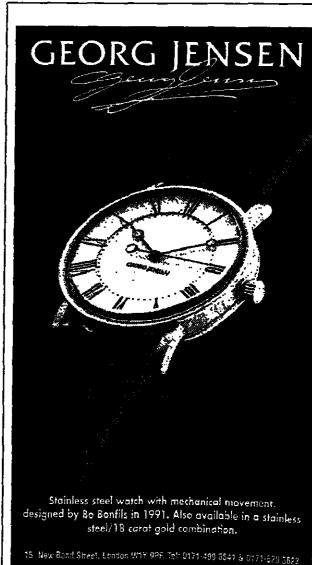
Hemmings made his mark

as an operatic boy soprano,

and well remembers the mo-

ment his voice broke. For the

chorister, this can be a mom-



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a gold tin box, £2.95,

(0171-589 1442) or

Bradley's black

The front entrance to Below Stairs in Hungerford

Jean Marsh, star and writer of Upstairs Downstairs, explains to Michael Cable

(0171-379 1740).

from The Iron Bed

Company (as above

comes in a real shell

and is filled with exotic-

Coconut candle, £4.50,

about her Below Stairs passion

Jean Marsh's discovery of the Hungerford antiques shop Below Stairs. The name was inspired by the hugely successful period TV series Upstairs Downstairs, which she devised and wrote with fellow actress Eileen Atkins, and starred in as the housemaid Rose.

Recalling how he gave up a steady job with WH Smith to open the business 25 years

garmer explains: "I started off specialising in items relating to people who worked below stairs in big houses, mainly craftsmen's tools and kitchen implements. I was a big fan of Unstairs Downstairs, which was showing at the time, and that's what gave me the idea for the name."

When he mentioned this to Ms Marsh, she clapped her hands in delight, revealing: That's doubly coincidental, because at one time the series was actually going to be called Below Stairs."

It was only recently, after buying a country cottage out-side Hungerford, that the 63year-old actress, scriptwriter and now best-selling romantic novelist discovered the shop and fell in love at first browse. "I didn't even notice the

name when I walked in but when I looked around at all the wonderful stuff he's got, I couldn't believe it - it was like being back on the set of Upstairs Downstairs," she says. She was also rather bowled over by Mr Holganner's quietly helpful manner.
I came in looking for some

brass keeps for a couple of beautiful antique bolts that I had acquired, and although he didn't have exactly what I was after, he offered to make some up for me." she says. "He was so nice about it.

and it was clear he was somebody who loved what he was doing and wasn't just in it

espite or, maybe, because of this, the business has flourished and gradually expanded. There are separate sections for antique lighting, interior fittings and ironmongery. kitchen an-tiques and taxidermy.

The room devoted to assorted collectables is a treasure house of curiosities ranging from a selection of Victorian policemen's truncheons and a gamekeeper's swingle stick, to mahogany and brass fishing reels, and a couple of Shell petrol pump globes dating from the 1940s.

Out in the yard, uprooted gas streetlamps lean against the wall alongside VR and GR post boxes -- popular, apparently, with town councils wanting to present their twin towns in Europe with something quintessentially British.

Ms Marsh climbs gingerly aboard an original baker's horse-drawn delivery cart, on offer for \$1.600, and then pauses to admire a haulage



Jean Marsh with Stewart Hofgartner. "I'm glad I didn't live in Victorian times - I wouldn't have been more than a maid"

wagon priced at £1,900, "I've got the space and if I had the money I might go for it," she muses, imagining it placed avourite somewhere in the 16 acres of garden and meadow surrounding her home.

The converted labourer's

Although she was once mar-

ried - to actor Jon Pertwee -

and has been involved in long

cottage she lives in is situated at the end of a lane. She plans relationships with another to have chicken and ducks, to actor. Kenneth Haigh, and the go for long walks and generalfilm director Michael Lindsayly to enjoy a simple rural idylf. while writing her books and the past 17 years. taking on occasional acting

Hogg, she has lived alone for

Biog

I've settled for it now, although I never thought I would live on my own and I do miss 'him', whoever 'he' is,"

she admits. "It would be lovely

to have someone with whom to discuss the decoration of the cottage and to help choose the converted gas lamps I am looking for."

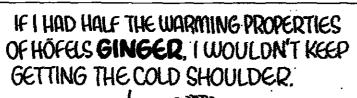
As you might expect of someone who devised and wrote Upstairs Downstairs and The House of Eliott, and who spanned the period 1880-1990 in last book Fiennders Keepers - which made the shortlist for Romantic Novel of the Year and is now out in paperback - she has a nostalgic streak.

'I do write a lot about olden times," she agrees, drooling

jelly moulds. "But I wouldn't want to have lived then because, with my Cockney background, I would never have been anything more than a maid. I would have worked very hard and would have

lived in a cold attic. "At the same time, England was simply a much more beautiful place. There was less traffic, fewer roads and more hedges. It's for that sort of thing that I am nostalgic."

 Below Stairs of Hungerford. 103 High Street, Hungerford. Berkshire (01488 682317). Open seven days a weck.





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## Out of the office, into the limelight



t's party season, and all over the country women are wailing "I can't wear that — it's too small/oldfashioned/tight" as they scramble around, trying to find a suitable dress to wear to this year's round of Christmas

Office parties are particularly difficult to dress for - the blissfully bare little number you might flaunt in a club is not always the right one in which to confront your bass -The magnificent slit skirt might be ideal for dirty dancing, but will a flash of thigh be

suitable for dinner? Glamour is key. "Women want to look grand, but sexy," says designer Ben de Lisi. "Our best-seller this year is a crépe spaghetti-strap dress which has a diaphanous georgette scarf that wafts behind like a train. It is simple, but women feel fabulous in it."

High streets have taken their cue from the elegant autumn/winter collections. Shops are full of embroidered slips, lace gowns, tasselled dresses and beaded creations. that look elegant and sumptous without being too expensive.

Paul Sexton, co-owner of Koh Samui in London's Covent Garden, says that glamorous Thirties styles are particularly popular. Kylie Minogue opted for a Ruti Danan corset-tight lace dress. Zoe Ball for a delicately beaded Elspeth Gibson slip with scalloped hernline: Sophie Ward for a silk and chiffen

Ithough Ithough every woman dreams of slipping on an origi-nal designer creation, most of us turn to the high street in times of party-

Oasis has a range of headed minis from £60; Coppering shimmering stretch slips for less than £50; Monsoon beaded ed eveningwear for about

100. If the bank balance won't is support even high-street prices, charity shops are an invaluable source of glamor ous items discarded by other women in similar states of pre-Christmas wardrobe panic.

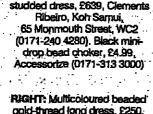
The most popular looks are simple and strappy, many are cut on the bias, letting the fabric flow gracefully, or are gently tailored to fit womanly curves.

There are styles to show off every woman's assets: halter-necks to emphasise a long, lean back; plunging necklines to show off a fine cleavage; cropped tops to reveal a flat a stomach.

Although there is a range of sparkly jewellery to match. most eveningwear looks best with simple pieces that complement, rather than distract. Add a pair of delicate strappy shoes, a matching bag and a wrap, and there will be only one other essential to add: the determination to have a jolly good time.

LISA GRAINGER





ABOVE: Black slik diamenté-

gold-thread long dress, £250, .. 189 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-352 3045)







ABOVE: Pink flower-print silk wrap, £81, Elvis Jesus, Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street, W1. and also Geese, 26 Deansgate, Manchester M3 (inquiries 0171-637 1450)



ABOVE: Gold organiza double-layer wrap, £115, Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161) LEFT: Devoré black velvet wrap with fringe, £55, Marks & Spencer, selected branches (0171-935 4422)

ABOVE LEFT: Black satin ouff-sleeve fitted jacket, £295, Fly Now By Chamnan, Pellicano, 63 South Molton Street, W1 (6171-629 2205). Black double-layer silverbeaded chillon skirt, \$28, Warehouse, selected branches (0171-278 3491). Fine choker, £178, Butler & Wilson, as before

ABOVE: Pink cowl-neck gold thread dress, £155, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-487 4484). Pink diamenté choker, £78, Butter & Witson, as before. Plum suede arkle-tie shoes, £262, Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 6008)



ABOVE: Płum silk diamanté-studded cowl-neck top, £325; matching skirt, £325, both to order, Katharine Hamnett, 20 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1002). Silver hoop earrings, £2.99, Accessorize, as before

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Salty Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7744). Styling by Amandip Uppal. Photographed at Embargo, 533b King's Road, SW10 (0171-351 5038)



to 1pm. lephon<del>e</del> re name iability. ierks ol

### Oranges are not the only fruit for Christmas

Citrus plants of every species make excellent festive decorations, says Barbara Abbs

hat can you give the gardener who has everything for Christabout a citrus plant. At this time of year, you should be able to get a fruiting lemon from a specialist nursery, ideal for Christmas drinks, gin and tonics and hot toddies.

Orange trees in fruit, especially the small Calamondin, look as if they are already decorated. A medium-sized kumquat should give you enough tiny fruits to accompany a festive ham or the fruit can be left on the tree until spring to give you a taste sensation that you will never get from those on sale in supermarkets. When they are ripe, the peel becomes meltingly sweet and contrasts with the still tangy fruit.

Not only are citrus fruits good to eat, but because of their vibrant colours they make splendid additions to Christmas wreaths and table or mantelpiece decorations. They are particularly easy to fix because wire can go right through them. Satsumas are not suitable because the peel is so loosely attached to the fruit.

In a wreath, lemons, clementines and small oranges can be fixed to the frame after the background of ever-green leaves has been built up. For table decorations, the skin of the fruit can be scored into patterns with a lemon zester and then studded with cloves. Tie them with ribbons and pile them up among the holly.

Oranges and lemons and all their relations are ideal container plants, as north Europeans have been proving since the 16th century when they were first grown in the grand orangeries built for them. Today, with lighter houses, conservatories, glass porches and glass doors, many of us can find room for one because they need only to be kept frost-free over the winter. In the summer they love to be in full sun out of doors. They have handsome, evergreen. aromatic leaves, deliciously scented flowers and attractive edible fruit, often all at the same time. What more can one want in a pot plant?



Colourful: the Citrus sinensis

Two of the easiest citrus to grow are the Four Seasons Lemon, Citrus limon 'Quatre Saisons', and the Calamondin orange, now called x Citrofortunella microscarp. The Four Seasons Lemon flowers and fruits all year round, as does 'Garey's Eureka' which is closely related but, according to some experts, not identi-cal. The Calamondin has small, attractive orange fruit and is the only citrus which has an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. There is an extremely pretty variegated variety.

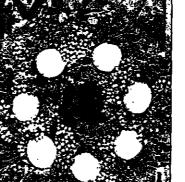
For something sweeter, choose oranges, mandarins or satsumas. The orange C. sinensis 'Washington' matures early and is almost seedless. The Moro Blood Orange, C. sinensis



Oranges and lemons are ideal container plants. Below, lemons brighten a wreath

'Moro Blood', is highly recommended for its flavour, as is another blood orange. 'Sanguinelli'. In recent years mandarins, satsumas and clementines have all but replaced the tangerines which used only to arrive in the shops for Christmas. As soon as I smell the true tangerine-scented fruit of the willow leaf mandarin, I am a child again, tipping out the That distinctive scent, not shared by the newer hybrids, is magical.

For an unheated greenhouse, consider the kumquats which can withstand temperatures of minus-five degrees for short periods. These small tart fruits are very decorative. Kumquats, Fortunella margarita, are almost the hardiest citrus; only Poncirus trifoliata. the deciduous bitter orange, which will grow outdoors here, is hardier. However, they do need watching. Both kumquats and Meyer's Lemon, Citrus x meyeri 'Meyer', which is frequently recommended, need particular care with



watering in winter. Kumquats have a long dormant season then, while Meyer's Lemon is susceptible to dropping its leaves in a damp autumn. The automatic thing to do if an evergreen drops its leaves or appears not to be growing at all, is to water it heavily. Resist! More citrus plants are killed by becoming water-

MARY ÉVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

logged than anything else.
The compost should be allowed to go dry while not drying out. Test by pressing your thumb two or three inches down into it. If it feels damp, do not water. In winter, the not may only need to be watered about once every four to six weeks.

ost citrus bene outside during the summer between the last and first frosts, but do this by stages. The leaves may scorch if the plants are put out suddenly into bright sunshine. Acclimatise them by moving them first into the shade and then gradually into full sun. In the winter the plants need as much light

When it is too dark, even if the air is warm, the plant will drop its leaves but this is not necessarily fatal. If it is kept in the house on a windowsill, or in front of glass doors, turn it regularly and keep away from direct heat sources like radiators.

#### GARDEN ANSWERS



I moved a three-year-old flowering cherry in late October and, going by the book, watered it twice a day for a month. turned frosty, so I stopped watering and covered the ground under it with polythene. Then the leaves started to go brown and fall. What went wrong? Should I have continued to M. Streeter. Whitton, Middlesex.

A Strictly speaking, you should not transplant deciduous trees until the leaves have fallen, though most tough trees will survive being transplanted just before the leaves drop. Evergreens, which continue to transpire all winter, are better moved with the rootball intact. But if they are moved with a bare root. generous watering is vital once every one to two days, and less if the weather is damp and still. I suspect you have followed the instructions for evergreen trees, because your cherry was still in leaf. However, I am sure it will be fine. The leaves would have dropped quickly anyway.

We want to line the formal 20-yard drive to our front door with a hornbeam hedge "on stilts". We envisage about 4ft of trunk topped by 4ft of hedge. What size trees do you recommend? — J. Hawksley, Dilwyn, Here-

height, and with the branches removed to

individual stakes, rather than a heavy structure of tensioned wires to train them on. Wire frames are for perfectionists in a hurry, but you can make a stilted hedge without having to look at tall posts and wires for the first three or four years: A few long garden canes tied between the trees, to pull the side branches together, will do the trick.

My old quince tree produces a lot of fruit but much of it is marked unusable. Could I prune it, and remove some blossom to reduce the crop? — B. Metcalf, Cheltenham,

The problem could be quince leaf blight, which appears on fruit as well as foliage. Clean out the tree of any diseased wood, collect and burn the leaves, and spray with a copper fungicide at leafburst in spring. Major pruning will not clear the isease and is more likely to do harm than good. I would not remove blossom, as you never know which flowers are going to set good fruit.

 Write to: Garden Answers. Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

**♠** A compendium of Stephen Anderton's Garden Answers is available from bookshops, priced £11.99, or direct from The Times on 0990 134459 (quote ref FT696) for £10, while



Pick flowers of Iris lazica and unguicularis. Put an openended cloche over clumps of Christmas roses (Helleborus niger) to produce clean flowers with no soil splashes for picking. Some plants of this species never flower for Christmas. If you want one which appears on time, buy one in flower.

■ Chaenomeles japonica (flowering quince), which is trained \(\) hard against a wall, may have its summer shoots cut away, back to the rounder flower buds, which will open in spring. Apply tar oil wash to dormant fruit trees and bushes, to kill the eggs of next year's generation of aphids, sucker and scale

insects. Use rubber gloves and goggles. Keep indoor azaleas (Azalea indica varieties) in a cool room, especially at night. Water by plunging the pot in a bowl of water, but let the rootball become fairly dry between waterings. Prune apples and pears (but not cherries and plums), and take any rotten, mummified fruits off the trees.

### All present and correct with very little effort

Reader offer: the Citrus Centre in West Sussex (see address below) is offering

readers of The Times a free bottle of special citrus fertiliser, value £4, with every

order over E20. Citrus trees bought as gifts for Christmas and ordered immediately should arrive before December 25, weather permitting, Prices start

from £20 for bushes and £30 for standards. Post & packing is extra and offer

■ Nurseries: the Citrus Centre. Marehill Nursery. West Mare Lane, Marehill, Pulborough. West Sussex RH20 2EA (01798 872786 and fax 01798 874880). Open

Wednesday to Sunday, 9.30am-5.30pm and Bank Holidays. Global Orange Groves, PO Box 644, Poole, Dorset BH17 9YB (01202 691699). Read's Nursery, Hales Hall, Loddon, Noriolk NR14 6QW (01508 548395 and fax 01508 548040). No

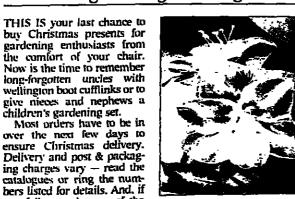
mail order from mid-December. Open Tuesday-Saturday. IDam-5pm and Sundays May to October. 2pm-5pm. Holders of the National Collection of citrus.

finishes January 31 (01798 872786 or fax 01798 874880 for full details).

Jane Owen picks the best of the festive

offerings from gardening mail-order catalogues

gardening enthusiasts from the comfort of your chair. Now is the time to remember long-forgotten uncles with wellington boot cufflinks or to give nieces and nephews a children's gardening set. Most orders have to be in over the next few days to ensure Christmas delivery. Delivery and post & packaging charges vary - read the catalogues or ring the numbers listed for details. And, if you fail to make any of the mail-order deadlines. zip down to your nearest B&Q store and get a 3D reindeer (£50), complete with fitted lights, to brighten up your



garden. Rudolf's 3D sleigh is a must at £40. The neighbours will love it. Plantlife is the charity res-

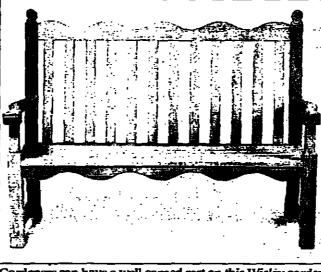


servation in this country and its mail-order offerings this year include two Christmas cards - one of a Christmas rose and the other a wood engraving of a sprig of yew (both £3.50 for ten). Gift embership of Plantlife costs El9. For details send an A4. 50p stamped, addressed envelope to Plantlife, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD (0171-938 9111).

Lend the moral high ground to a friend by buying them membership of Europe's foremost organic gardening organisation, the Henry Doubleday Research Association, for £17 a year or £20 for the family. It gives free entrance to HDRA gardens: access to free gardening advice and the HDRA reference

library and heaps more. Ring 01203 303517 about membership or for a copy of the Organic Gardening catalogue, which has a wide range of disease-resistant flower and vegetable varieties, a video. Introduction to Organic Gardening (£12.95), and a pretty cream and green mug (53.95) among other Christ-

mas presents. The Royal Horticultural Society for the first time has gift wrapped a membership pack with a card which the new member simply has to fill in to activate membership. At £37 the package buys free entrance to 250 talks and demonstrations, free entrance to 30 gardens, 12 free copies of The Garden and free garden-



Gardeners can have a well-earned rest on this Wisley garden bench. It costs £650 from the Royal Horticultural So Amaryllis bulbs, left, cost £12.99 from Thompson & Morgan

ing advice. Send a cheque for £37 to RHS membership department. PO Box 313, London SWIP 2PE with your name, address and daytime telephone number.

For wellington boot cufflinks (£11.95), a daisy brooch (£24.75), a Wisley garden bench (£650), or a lily pot with three "stargazer" bulbs (£34.95) get the RHS catalogue or get in touch direct with RHS Enterprises, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB (01483 211320). Unfortunately, it cannot guarantee delivery before Christmas.

TINY GREEN fingers can be encouraged with Ferndale Lodge's two-third size gardening set (£6.95) of trowel, border fork, gloves, kneeling pad, calendar and activity guide with a pack of seeds. For adults, sturdy ankle-length galoshes are good value at £19.95. However, it might be optimistic of the comapny suggest that its green PVC ankle boots (£15.95) will put

fashion in your rainy day wardrobe". More information on 01803 612300.

Johnsons sells gift-box sets made seasonal by a strip of red ribbon. The men's de-luxe gardening gift set (£27.99 or £25.99 on offer) consists of leather gloves, an apron and secateurs. More information on 0800 614323. Amaryllis bulbs make

good presents. Thompson & Morgan's amaryllis bulbs (£12.99) are good standby presents. Order a catalogue on 01473 688821. For orders call 01473 690869.

The National Trust is selling painted plant pots (£9.99). The ladies' wax cloche (£24.99) is intended for the head rather than the plant but would, aesthetically, be better placed on the latter. For the troublesome armchair gardener a framed sampler (El0.99) may be the answer. Call 0117-988 4747 for more information.



£27.99. Wellington boot cufflinks, below, £11.95 from the RHS catalogue. Mugs, below left, £3.95 from the Organic Gardening catalogue

Johnsons's



# A peer among scenic plotters

ME AND MY GARDEN: JEFFREY ARCHER

ord Archer of Weston super-Mare is strolling along the River Cam at the bottom of his garden at The Old Vicarage, Grantchester, of Rupert Brooke's eponymous poem.

"I was sitting here with The Boss [John Major] having a quiet conversation and a punt came along. The fellow in it took one look at us and immediately fell out," he says.

Well, you would wouldn't you? Punting along dreaming of honey and ten-to-three, and the then Prime Minister and one of his more controversial colleagues heave into view where the "tunnel of green gloom" should be. Enough to make anyone fling themselves overboard.

The Cambridgeshire garden comprises a series of lawns surrounded by huge serpentine beds, mostly of small trees, shrubs and perennials: globe thistle, magnolia, pyrocanthus, willows, cherry, a mass of different forms of honeysuckle, viburnum, cotoneaster ... all tightly planted and neatly maintained, mostly by the gardener, Rachel Overy, and her helper. In style it is different from

the description Brooke gives in a letter to a cousin: This is a deserted, lonely, dank, ruined, overgrown, gloomy house: with a garden to match." But an atmosphere of "peace and

holy quiet remains. Shaded by some elderly trees to one side of the lawn at the back of the house is a castellated Gothic revival folly. The conservatory at the back of the folly, blue with plumbago, was opened by The Boss - and closed, during the same ceremony, by Billy Connolly, ("He just thought it had been open long enough so he closed it on the same afternoon." Jeffrey says.)

Jeffrey, who mentions his connections with Diana, Princess of Wales, Tom Stoppard and other celebrities within minutes of us meeting, remains close to a tranche of the



Garden sculpture of a naked girl, chosen by Jeffrey

and famous despite stunning upsets which might have over-whelmed anybody else the bankruptcy for £450,000 ("I'm glad it happened when it did; I was young enough to re-cover), a libel case over innocently giving money to a prostitute, and a share-dealing affair which caused him to apologise publicly to his wife.

I ask him about his phoenix quality: how have the pair of them coped? Does her serenity see him through, or does he have rubber-ball genes? He prevaricates until Lady Archer (or Dr Archer as she is known as a scientist, or Mary as she prefers to be addressed), sewing serenely while we talk in their kitchen, says: "Answer

the question, Jeffrey."
"Mary is a calm person. I am very focused. Anyway, everybody has blips in their

This brilliant double act is reflected in the garden. Mary, with Ms Overy's help, is in charge of planting the three-and-a-half slightly limey acres, which was a jungly mass when they arrived in

We have completed 18 years of a 100-year project,"

low-maintenance design gives a stillness to the garden, while Jeffrey's comributions provide the drama: swirling fish in the newly-built great, good, powerful, rich pond to one side of the house

- "My idea," he says - and the statuary, mostly of naked

The only area of disagreement is over sculpture, where their tastes do not always coincide. When Mary objects to a piece ("I just see them and fall in love," says Jeffrey, who reckons to visit galleries at least twice a week), he simply waits for her "to come round".

o-operation comes in

the placing of the sculptures: they position them by taking it in turns to stand in various spots which might benefit from an eyecatcher — "although I had no intention of doing a handstand," says Mary, referring to the late Sydney Harpley's bronze Girl Doing a Handstand, which teeters at one end of the old

cricket pitch. This is our first real: garden," says Mary, whose childhood home included a large garden and walled kitchen garden where she remembers a jungle of raspberry canes. "We open for charity through the National Gardens Scheme, which is the time of year when garden visiting takes on the aspect of a

Jeffrey has no garden memories. At Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, where he was brought up, young Jeffrey was too busy making money from



deckchairs and ice-cream on

the beach. Every year the Archers have one major garden project. The most recent is a large kidneyshaped pond crammed with fish. "Usually I have the ideas and my wife's formidable brain makes it all happen," Jeffrey says. This is the man who greeted me with the words: "The garden is nothing at all to do with me. I want to make that clear."

We stroll past the 12-year old yew hedge around the tennis court and Jeffrey demands to know why it isn't bigger. Soothing words from Mary about yew being a slow grower. "Well, it isn't good enough," he says.

When the greenhouse goes the Archer's next garden project will take shape on derelict land around the greenhouse site: a pergola will drip roses, the apology of a wood-shed will be replaced and a machine store added, as well as a more formal composting system. At present, compost is made on a long, low heap

A beehive has been left near the woodland at the bottom of the garden as a sculptural eyecatcher and a reminder of Rupert Brooke.

beside the tennis court.

There is the tinkling sound of water everywhere, from the moss-covered stone fountain at the centre of the lawn where the water spills into a round

Aprilirames this Christmas

pool enclosed by lavender, to the trickle of two streams which flow into the kidney-

efore their sons were grown up, Jeffrey and football with them on the lawn in front of the house. Now, Mary has added more of her large curving beds to transform the sports field.

Being a writer meant that I could go to the school footie match in midweek," Jeffrey says. "But one of the children finally asked me to stop taking him to school in case all the other children thought I was

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wer the phone (or the call of nature) or make a quick

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"I find it a peaceful garden," he says. It is difficult to imagine Tigger-like Archer being peaceful. He admits to being obsessed by time, planning "every minute of the day from 5am until midnight". He then warms how many minutes are left before the inter-

The conversation turns to the Princess of Wales. He was the first Establishment figure to demand the reinstatement of the title HRH. "She really is irreplaceable," he says. "Diana and I were a great team. She knew how to use me and together we raised millions for charity. She just had to sign a tablecloth and it would go for thousands."

view terminates.

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Jeffrey is a curious mix of pragmatist, wild card and Tory: a male life peer fighting for sexual equality in royal succession, for instance. "Who will be against me now after Diana?" he asks.

"I am a rebel and a revolutionary within the Conservatives. The Conservative Party needs to be completely reformed and we need to be as courageous as Tony Blair has been with Labour."

We head for the folly where he writes and Mary also has an office. A plaque on the side reads: "Mary's Second Folly." So what was the first? "Oh, come on," Jeffrey says.

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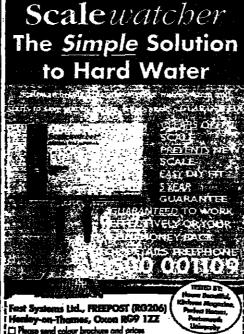
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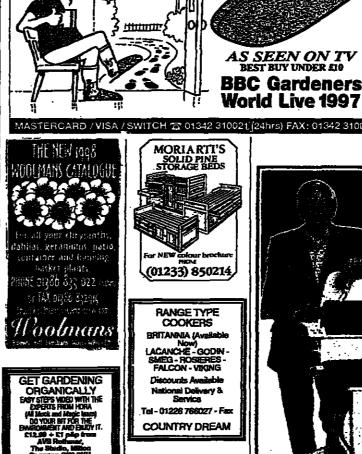


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#### 'The bell struck with a rich note that must have hardly changed since it was hoisted in the century of Agincourt and Joan of Arc'

f you need convincing of the power of church bells, cast your mind back to the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, when the tolling of the tenor bell of Westminster Abbey, sent shivers down spines worldwide. Or think of church bells at Christmas, ding-donging merrily on high; and at New Year ringing out the old and ringing in the new. Think of those bronze monsters, hanging silently. waiting faithfully for their moment on high days and holidays. And pity those parishes where economics have forced them to resort to electronic recordings, broadcast from belfries where magnetic tape and loudspeakers sit next to

Then feel sorriest of all for those parishes where the bells are there, the ropes intact and the bellringers willing, but where a large dollop of cash is needed before they dare ring them, lest several tons of bronze fall on the head of

the verger at the first pull. The parish of All Saints, Hacheston, in Suffolk, is one where the bells have not chimed this century. Yet, as in thousands

Pulling strings for the big peal there is a determination that at midday on January 1, 2000, the bells will ring again. The only snag is that £60,000 is still needed; but in a gutsy little parish like this there is nothing that cannot be

solved with coffee mornings, bring and buys and car boot sales. One draughty Sunday afternoon a couple of weeks ago, I accepted their invitation to climb the tower of their church and see the silent bells for myself. am something of a novice in the matter of belfries, associating them mainly with bats. But being atop a bell tower can be as inspiring as anything that happens a

hundred feet below. I met bellringer David Clough, who arrived complete with torch and British Telecom boiler suit. Appropriate, so the vicar Harry Edwards reminded me: bells are about communication. "The church bells were messengers. They brought news of war and peace, birth and death.

community."

Not these bells, not properly since 1850. They have been chimed as recently as 1958, but that's not the same as full circle ringing, and even with gentle chiming bricks started to fall Even so, the congregation still remembers a Mr Hammond with affection, for it was his heroic task to pull a bell

his foot, and then go and pump the organ for the subsequent service. When we had climbed the long. wooden ladder and scrambled on to a dusty medieval oak framework, still stay for the service. "Their job was to

rope with each hand, another tied round

DOWN TO EARTH



shaped the timbers 500 years ago, it was clear why it will take a lot of coffee mornings to make these bells ring again. Balancing on a

beam, bracing him-

self against the wind

blowing through the tower, David Clough

reached out and caressed a bell. He could feel the cracks as he ran his fingers across it. Although it is the newest of the lot (made as recently as 1712 by Richard Phelps of London) it would need expenit was a tradition that the ringers didn't

bearing the marks of summon the faithful. They didn't have to adze and axe which go themselves." Mr Edwards says: There was always a beer jug in the tower. It is a tradition we shall

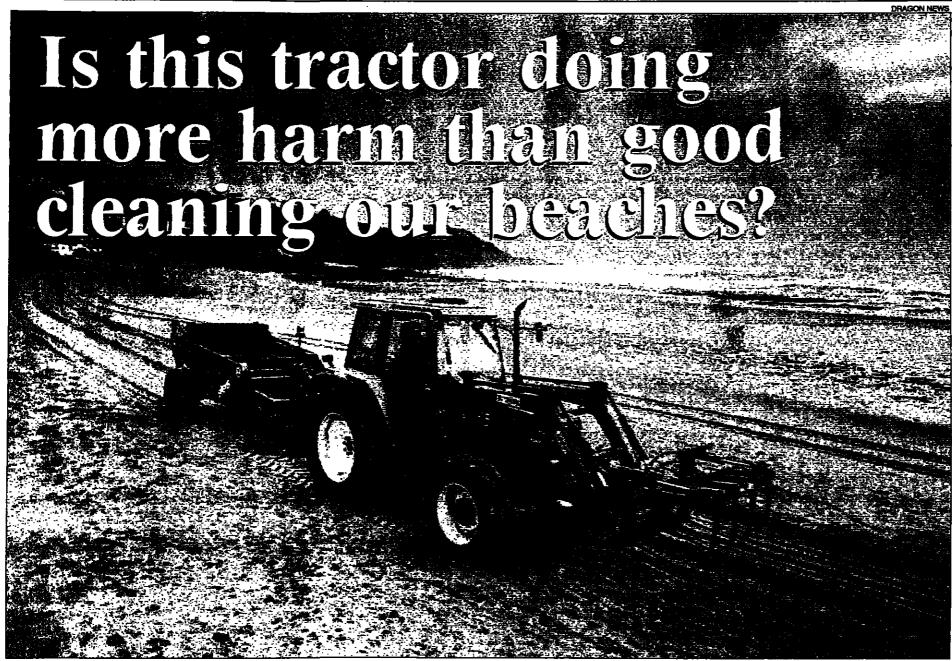
Then came the most moving moment of the visit. Mr Clough shuffled along a beam, spilling dust and chips of crumbling wood, and knelt until his hand reached down to another bell. In hushed tones he said: This is the jewel in the crown of All Saints." We were looking at a bell cast between 1424 and 1482. Remarkably, of all the five bells, it seems to be in the best condition. In honour of its age and dignity, all the others will be retuned to

"Would you like to hear it?" he asked. like a vintner offering to uncork a rare bottle. We nodded. He held on to the wooden frame with one hand, and then

reached down until he could grasp the clapper. He pulled it as far as he could and let go. The bell struck with a rich note that must have hardly changed since it was hoisted in the century of Agincourt and Joan of Arc. The purity of its sound was too powerful to interrupt and we crouched among the rot and splinters until the last of it died away. Clear as a bell, eh?" said Mr Clough. That bell bears the inscription Dulcis Sifto Melis Campa Tocoi Michis — "Box of sweet honey. I am called Michael's beli". The other bells were newcomers,

upstarts from 1589 and 1693. Much money is needed to get all of Britain's silent bells ringing again, and you will excuse me if I join the repetitive chorus of voices who poke fun at the Greenwich dome. But if we are looking for a symbol for the new millennium. how do you compare a Teflon-clad blister with the cast bronze communicators from long ago that still stir us, that speak to the parish and bring together the secular and spiritual? If we must have Peter's dome, at least let us have the humility to save Michael's bell too.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend. The Times, I Pennington Street, Landon El 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.



A tractor scours the sands at Swansea Bay, where a programme to remove natural debris has coincided with a decline in the wading bird population

n their anxiety to win a coveted Blue Flag award for their pristine beaches, could seaside holiday resorts be destroying the very resource they aim to promote? Disturbing consequences of the quest for eleanliness have been uncovered recently by the University of Wales, Swansea, in a year-long biological haywatch project carried out by a coastal zone management group from the university.

New evidence from the group suggests that, contrary to popular wisdom, over-zealous cleaning of Britain's beaches could be doing more harm than good.

Paul Llewellyn, a 51-year-old member of the university team, believes that the mechanical cleaning of beaches carried out by local authorities threatens their stability.
"It has taken since the last

Ice Age for the beaches we see today to build up." he says. "We could destroy them in a couple of decades."

The problem arises when

the cleaning programme removes the strandline - the accumulated debris that is deposited twice daily at high

This fertile landmark. which includes organic material such as trees, grass, seaweed, algae and even dead In their desperation to attract more tourists, seaside resorts

may be destroying their main attraction. Alan Road reports



that this new threat should be

the consequence of a legiti-

mate desire to reduce pollu-

tion. "Yesterday's grand idea

Bay of Naples, and parts of the

disaster," he says.

unimals, plays a vital role in

beach ecology. On beaches like Swansea Bay, which is hoping

to be awarded a Blue Flag in

the next year or so, there can

be a danger of over-keen local

authorities trying to do too

Mr Llewellyn finds it ironic

much cleaning, too often.

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The demand for squeaky-clean beaches that can win a coveted Blue Flag award is spoiling the shoreline, leading to erosion and a threat to wildlife

of cleanliness is tomorrow's His research was carried out on the majestic seven-mile stretch of sand at the college's doorstep, which makes up Swansea Bay. The poet Walter Savage Landor once compared it favourably with the

seashore have been designated Sites of Special Scientific interest. As Mr Llewellyn talks on the windswept beach, a converted potato picker employed by council contractors to collect litter is methodically scouring the beach behind

His investigation was prompted by an unexplained decline in the local wading bird population at the begin-

ning of the decade. The biologist's suspicions immediately fell on a mechanical cleaning programme of the beach strandline carried out by the city council since 1983. The strandline is vital to the wading birds as well as a host of small animals, including voles, mice, hares and even

More to the point, the

strandline is home to a declining population of tiny inverte-brates from both land and sea which break down the decomposing vegetation. This is then distributed by wind and waves, acting as an important

binding agent in the sand. Mr Liewellyn has seen the same problems developing on other British beaches, especially in Cornwall. "On some," he says, "the invertebrate population has almost been wiped

On exposed shores, the endangered strandline also acts as a catalyst for embryo dunes, which in turn become home for plants such as saltwort, and sea sandwort that trap more sand. "Sand dunes are the most cost-effective method of coastal defence," the biolo-

gist says.

There is evidence of erosion tide and consider it an of the dune frontage of the foreshore. In the event of eyesore." in 1992, Britain lost 90 per southwesterly gales, great quantities of dry sand are cent of its Blue Flag sites overnight when the waterblown inland and, appropriquality threshold was raised. Last year just 38 beaches around Britain met the stanately, in the direction of the Guildhall in Swansea itself. In the Guildhall, the local dards for water quality and

SHOOTING DOWN ECO MYTHS

Recycling trash was once the cornerstone of the American eco-revolution, but now collections of newspapers, plastic, glass and cans in Washington DC have been suspended. Alex Wijeraine writes. Analysis say it's more worthwhile to burn or landfill the garbage. ■ Once we were told to slot old newsprint into collecting bins, but now Imperial College says that transport between collection points and pulp centres adds more to global warming than any energy saved. ■ We were once advised not to flick fluorescent strip

lights on and off — a greener, cheaper, energy-saving way to avoid power surges. But now, according to the Going for Green environmental group: "It's better if you turn them off even if you leave the room for five minutes." Diesel was tipped as the fuel of the future - chean. clean and efficient. Unfortunately, it gives off small particles that harm those with respiratory problems.

### Highland warriors to the rescue Derwent May on the unlikely

saviours of the heather moors

on the warpath There was a time when these great shaggy animals roamed all over the Scottish moors, but in the late 18th century sheep began to take over their ancient territories and, like the Highland clans, the cattle faded away. Now, for several reasons, the tide is beginning to turn — and it is today's vast flocks of grazing sheep that are com-

ng under threat. Highland cattle certainly look like formidable warriors. Their flanks are massively armoured with long. rough wool that comes down to the top of the heather, and their fierce, curling horns rise above a fringe (called a dossan) that hangs like a visor over their eyes. In fact, they trot away through the heather quite are nervously if they approached.

It is not their fighting spirit but their eating habits that are behind the new interest being shown in them. They will eat any-thing — brambles, blaeberries, rushes and any dry. aged heather. But what they do not eat is even more important — and that is the new heather that springs up where the moors have heen hurned.

That is their essential

authority officials are caught

in a dilemma. Since the de-

cline of the local coal and steel

industries, the city has striven

to promote its image as a holiday resort. The tourists it

courts are accustomed to

squeaky-clean continental

beaches. Only recently, a corr-

espondent to the letters col-

umn of the local newspaper

complained of a failure to

remove pebbles from a beach.

Huw Morgan, the city's pollution control officer, points

out that an alliance of local

authorities with Welsh Water

has signed up to a Green Seas

initiative with a target of 500 Blue Flags for the Principality

by 2000. "Who wants smelly

Among the 29 criteria set out

by the Tidy Britain Group for

its Seaside Award, is one

stipulating the complete re-moval of naturally occurring

organic debris that makes up

the strandline. Seaweed should not be

allowed to decay and become a

hazard distasteful to the pub-

They have the attitude that

lic, the group's guidance

the beaches are a recreational

leisure facility and should be pristine clean," Mr Morgan

says. "People see driftwood

and seaweed thrown up by the

Although Messrs Morgan

and Liewellyn appear to be on

opposite sides in the battle of

the Blue Flags, they share

more hand-cleaning to the

beaches," says Mr Morgan.

"Mechanical cleaning doesn't

just pose a threat to sand

banks, it also thins the sand

itself." This in turn makes it

even easier to be picked up by

Meanwhile, the biologist

readily concedes the need to

remove the less attractive de-

tritus of modern life, such as

plastic bottles, syringes, sani-

tary towels and condoms. Sea-

weed, however, is a different

"We are aiming to introduce

notes decree

facilities.

many objectives.

old seaweed?" he muses.

difference from sheep, which thrive on those young heather shoots, and consequently do not allow the heather to regenerate. That does not particularly trouble the sheep farmers
— grass is as good for them but it is beginning to trouble conservationists. Many recent studies have shown how steadily the bird and animal life of the British uplands is dying and that the main danger to the grouse, and the other moorland birds such as golden plovers and cur-lews, comes from the sheep

heather cover. This is where the Highland cattle come in. They are being seen by many landowners, and by Scottish National Heritage, as potential saviours of the

and their destruction of the

Keith Howman is a Scottish landowner with a 300acre grouse moor near Pitlochry. Two years ago he put his first three Highlanders on it and now he has a "fold" (you must never call Highlanders a herd) of 16. Already he sees

his heather improving, and he is planning an ideal fold of 35 Highlanders to replace the 200 sheep. Aeneas Mackay has a

farm on the Isle of Muil He values his Highland cattle because they work together with the heather. keeping it low and youthful so that wildlife can flourish among it. He has curlews. and a great variety of wild flowers thriving where the cattle graze.

Farmland conservation schemes must always, of course, be underpinned by economics. But here, too, the future of Highland cattle has recently had an important boost — from. of all quarters, BSE. The long pedigrees of the Highland cattle and the fact that they feed outdoors all year round on rough, natural pastures has given beef consumers a fresh interest in them - and the "beef on the bone" crisis has boosted sales of Highland beef still

further. Hamish Wilson is the secretary of the Highland Cattle Society. He talks enthusiastically of the Guaranteed Pure Highland Beef scheme, under which beef is sold with the society's certificate, and the way shops such as Harrods have taken it up.

The cattle are also being used for conservation in mainland Europe. In France, grazing alongside Camarguan horses, they have brought back to life a great stretch of brackish land between Rouen and Le Havre. In the Swiss Alps. they are keeping the forests from spreading.

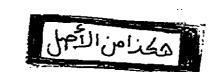
In the South of England, too, they are becoming more common. There is a fine fold of 90 cattle at Salters Heath Farm on the ridge just south Sevenoaks, and Connie and Lady, the two star show animals on the farm. are very familiar to commuters driving along the A2I Sevenoaks bypass.

So sheep — look out! You may be luxuriating now with your fat subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policy. But those Highlanders you drove out of their homes 200 years ago are starting to mass for their revenge.

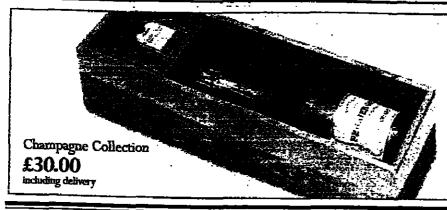
● The Highland Cattle Society is at 59 Drumlanrig Street Tharmhill. Dumfriesshire DG3 5LY (01848 330438).



What the Scots missed: Highlanders are back in fashion



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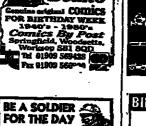
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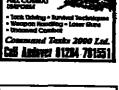


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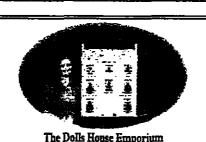
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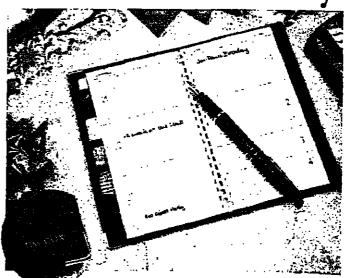
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### Christmas treats all year round

Ensuring that our festive food passes the quality test is a year-long labour of love for experts, says Madeleine Kingslev

s you succumb to once-ayear foodie treats this Christmas, spare a thought for the unsung professionals who have spent the most of the past year sampling them in spades - or at the very least with dessert spoons.

Sally Rowe, a Christmas pudding and seasonal cake selector, has munched 500 plum puds since last Christmas. Barry Colenso, a chocolatier, has eaten 2,920 chocolates during 1997, and Mollie Kelly, who supplies turkeys to Harrods, will have fed her family about 20 birds in the weeks before Christmas Day. In the course of autumn gradings. Ian Skailes will have polished off the equivalent of nearly a whole 8kg Stilton.

Ms Rowe says that developing Christmas puddings for Marks & Spencer is her "dream job". Every day of the working week in the M&S kitchen at Baker Street in central London, or at the factory suppliers, the farmer's daughter with a first in home economics tries out 20 different cakes or puddings from existing lines, or sweetmeats-

She started developing this season's new pudding more than a year ago, researching traditional recipes. "I began with an original Mrs Beeton, but found it too solid and full of egg for today's taste,"

Well into spring she was still trying out six or so variants with her development chef, tweaking the nutmeg and cinnamon content, and checking the texture. By May she had moved on to large-scale production trials. "I'm eating Christmas pudding when it's boil-ing hot outside. The fruity aroma wafts down my office corridor. Everyone sniffs and sighs 'Delicious', but I get used to it."

How Ms Rowe remains a svelte 8st 10lb seems a mystery that twice weekly aerobics can not entirely explain. "The secret." she says, "is that I only ever taste a small amount. You soon learn that the proper discipline is to chew, but then, like fine wine, spit out and not

By Christmas, you would think she would be sick of the sight of a pudding, but she says: "I'm quite looking forward to eating it without critical analysis for once — just a good piece of pudding on a proper



FEW OF US give much thought to the dedication and effort that lies behind the delicacies which we eat only once a year. Just look at what these three experts have to put up with for our benefit.



Turkey: taster Mollie Kelly eats the meat twice a week



Stilton: expert Ian Skailes eats 8kg every autumn



Chocs: chef Barry Colenso eats hundreds of them

plate with lashings of brandy

Mr Skailes, the Stilton supplier to Fortnum & Mason and Harvey Nichols in London, will also relish his celebratory sliver of the king of blue cheeses. Having sold about 40,000 hand-made cheeses in November and December, he views Christmas as the completion of his year's work, "because the fourmonth run-up is really the harvest

He and his dairy manager and assistant test cheeses every Friday

afternoon in the autumn. Each daily batch of Stilton is tasted, each cheese graded is on a scale from one to ten, and mature cheeses are randomly tested before dispatch.

Mr Skailes will eat about 5oz of Stilton during each end-of-week testing but says the build-up of these fairly hearty portions hasn't affected his waistline.

No one would make a similar claim for chocolate, though ten years of dreaming up novelties and then devouring the samples has done Mr Colenso, of Thorntons.

Derbyshire, no obvious harm, At 41 and 6ft 2in, he weighs 13st 2lb. "My waist measurement is 35in, but I'm

not fat, because I play squash twice

a week and also do two aerobic

sessions. I'm also quite careful about the meals I eat." Mr Colenso, a former chef patissier at the Savoy hotel, where he made the Queen Mother's 85th birthday cake and indulged his "real fetish" for chocolate desserts, says he dreamed up this season's speciality range of all-American chocs while on a trip to the States. It

Sally Rowe, left, tastes 500 plum puddings for M&S

entailed biting into hundreds of the Big Apples. Rocky Road Pralines and Pecan Caramel Haystacks. "I try to complete all my tasting by llam, because after that hunger could distort my reaction," he says. I taste only with a glass of water, never coffee or tea, which can confuse the taste

Near Chelms-ford in Essex, Mollie Kelly, who is 68 and officially retired from the family turkey business, continues to taste birds all year round. Her specialty is an old breed of bronze-feathered turkeys that was in danger of dying out before the family revived it about 12 years ago. "We'd be sick of turkey if I always roasted it, but I use the dark meat as you would lamb or beef for curries, stews and

goulash. "We eat turkey at least twice a week all year, and panels of housewives also pass judgment on meat taste for our "All our birds are

free-range, but some are reared on grassland, some on corn stubble. We like birds fed on 70 per cent grain and hung (refrigerated, of course)

for three weeks - four if we really had our way. "It's interesting that the younger our panel, the less hanging they like. I think the young are much more accustomed to bland food."

Mrs Kelly would rather eat her turkey with apple sauce than cranberry - though not at Christmas. "It's a family joke." she says, "that having sampled so many turkeys, we'd all rather have goose

#### THE 1997 MEL CALMAN CARTOON AWARDS

THIS is the final call before Christmas to remind readers of the hunt by The Times and the British Cartoonists' Association (BCA) to find the young cartoonist of the year. The awards are in memory of Mel Calman, who provided a daily pocket of wry-ness on the The Times front page for 15 years until his death

This year the judges are looking for a single frame cartoon, in colour or black and white, that makes a joke on a topical national news story. The aim is to find unknowns

under 30, who can join some of today's leading cartoonists: Matt of The Daily Telegraph, Steve Bell at The Guardian. Pugh, Robert Thompson and Peter Brookes of The Times. There are five categories of

award up for grabs. The first prize is £1.500, with two runners-up prizes of £500 each. There is also a £500 award for the winner of the under-18 category. The Dictionary of British Cartoonists 1730-

1980 (signed by the authors and judges) will be presented to the winner of the Special Commendation Prize.

Last year's winner was Richard Tomes, of Solihull, West Midlands. Since then, as well as regularly contributing to The Express. he says he has had all sorts of other offers - "some of which are even paid for". After receiving the award, his first rejection letter was from Richard Ingrams at The Oldie. The letter is now framed and hangs above his winning plaque. Despite this rebuttal. Tomes, now 30, says the Mel Calman awards are "the only ones to win".

The judges, chaired by John Jensen, chairman of the British Cartoonists' Association, will be: Chic Jacob, treasurer BCA; Mark Bryant, secretary BCA: Peter Maddocks, founder of the BCA: Pat Huntley, secretary, Friends of the Cartoon Art Trust: Enzo Apicella, BCA member; David Driver, head of design. The Times, Peter Brookes, political cartoonist. The Times: Steve Bell, political cartoonist. The Guardian; Claire Calman, writer and daughter of Mel Calman; Posy Simmonds, cartoonist; and Nicholas Wapshott, Saturday

editor, The Times. The award is open to any British national under 30 on January 31, 1998. There are two categories: under 30 and under 18. Cartoonists already working

newspaper may not enter. Entrants may submit their cartoons on paper, board or card, up to A4 in size. Do not sign the front. Entries - previously un-

hould be marked on the back with the applicant's name, date of birth, address and telephone number, and sent to: The Mel Calman Awards 1997, PO Box 5070. Leighton Buzzard

If you are under 18. mark the back of your entry "under IS". Copyright remains with the cartoonist but originals will not be returned; entrants should photocopy their work. The closing date is January 31, 1998. Copies of these rules may be obtained from: British Cartoonists' Association, 3 Clapham Park Terrace, Lyham Road, London SW2 5EA. Please include an SAE.





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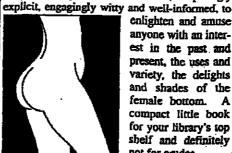


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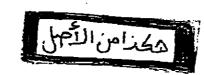
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#### 'My son was persuaded that it would be unkind to disappoint his public and so will appear in church in a hand-towel headdress'

هكذا من رلامل

am beginning to think that I have more in common than I had realised with Macaulay Culkin's mummy. The school nativity play takes place on Thursday and for days now it has been quite impossible to have a telephone conversation with a girlfriend without being interrupted by an imperious demand from Alexander to watch me rehearsing". "In a minute, darling," one says vaguely and carries on gassing

about really important things.
"What exactly did it mean when he said on the phone last night, 'See you very soon? Are the silver lace dress, the glass slippers, the diamante tiara and the chinchilla-trimmed coat a bit too Paula Yates for midnight mass in a remote Kentish village, or should I just go for it?" In the ear not pressed to the telephone, the droning chorus that small children seem able to keep up indefinitely without getting bored or drawing breath gradually rises from noisy to deafening: "Mum, Mum, watch me rehearse

"Look, Luce, we'll have to settle this about the frock later," I say. "I am still not convinced. Oh, come on then, Alexander, get on with it, if you Pity Macaulay Culkin's mother

fiftieth time this week, he begins to run very fast round and round in tight circles, emitting a piercing hum. "Lovely, darling." I cry encouragingly, wondering for the fiftieth time this week what on earth he is meant to be. Could be anything, really. An aeroplane? A bee? To ask him would be to lose my small private bet

with myself that I will get it in the end.
It has to be said that I failed dismally last time we had this rehearsing business, at the end of the summer term. Then there were strange, geisha-like, oddly graceful gestures of the hands and arms that turned out, after intense speculation, to be Alexander imitating the action of a panda.

But when, worn down by humming and curiosity, I gave in and asked what cisely it was that he was rehearsing this time, he was maddening unspecific, announcing at first that he was a wise man going on a very long journey, and a bit later that he was a child of all the

of all the world dance. I suppose I shall just have to wait until next Thursday afternoon to find out. Whatever the answer, it is fairly safe to say that I shall be blubbing and not merely with relief at the prospect of an end to the horrible sound

humming.

Meanwhile, he been headhunted by one of the ladies at his grandparents' church, who would like him to be a shepherd. There was initially a certain amount of resistance to this idea no doubt he was fearful of straining his instrument - which was not helped by Grandma's revelation that the cast might include a live donkey and also,

possibly, the miracle LIFE AND SOUL that is modern agribusiness permitting. a real baby lamb. Alexander is chillingly indifferent to the charm of animals, unless they are pandas. But he was eventually persuaded that it would be too unkind to disappoint his public, and accordingly will be ap-

service on December 21 in a homespun robe and hand-towel headdress. And a jolly good thing too, since not only will it give me a second opportunity to cry my mascara all the way down my cheeks in public, but also there is a chance that it may get the facts of the nativity straight in his mind, where, I suspect a certain

pearing at morning

It began with the Star Wars Advent calendar bestowed on him by a kindly relative. I arrived home one evening to find this heathen object - coal black, with the menacing phiz of Darth Vader staring out of it, surrounded by Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia et al in little golden halos — reposing in the middle of the kitchen table. No chance of suppressing it, since Alexander had already clocked it, and was entranced.

Before he opened the first window, i delivered a priggish lecture. Advent, 1 said, is the time when we are waiting for Baby Jesus to be born. And Darth Vader has nothing to do with Baby Jesus. Is that quite clear?

Yeah, yeah, said the child, prising open window number one and devouring the sweetie within. I countered by producing an Advent calendar of my own, a wonderfully tasteful item from the National Gallery whose little windows open to reveal choirs of angels, annunciations, travel-stained magi and so on. The

picture on the front, however, is a jolly Avercamp snow scene of lords and ladies and rude mechanicals skating and quaffing and burping and falling over on the ice on to their bottoms. Alexander thinks it is a hoot. Baby Jesus is conspicuous by his absence.

OK, I said to Alexander, we will now go and look at some pictures of the nativity. So we got on a train to Trafalgar Square and went to the National Gallery (still free to get in, and a good thing too. Imagine stumping up a tenner every time you needed to explain to your sixyear-old about the ox and ass and camel which adore). And we made our way through rooms full of glorious nativity scenes. Look, I said, there are Mary and Joseph and the shepherds, with their bagpipes. No Darth, no Luke, no Jabba

the Hut ... Got that? Mmm hmm, said my son. But he narrowed his eyes, and I could see him thinking that just beyond the picture frame, where I am too stupid to see them. lurk Darth and his stormtroopers with their blasters, waiting for the moment when I turn my back and they can swoop in and sort out the babe in the manger good and proper.





Their children's Christmas was high on the agenda for Earl Spencer and Paula Yates

### .' But I want to be with Daddy

t was a bitter divorce but Heather and Simon Davies agreed to put their children first at Christmas. One year Charlotte, six, with Heather, the next year with Simon. The system worked well for three years the children were dropped off on Christmas Eve and picked up on Boxing Day. But then Heather met someone else. reff. to whom she is now married. He brought with him two children from a previous marriage, and then sparks began to fly. Emma and Charlotte took such a dislike to their new step-siblings that by early December they told their father that, although it was their mother's turn to have them for Christmas, they could not face playing happy

families. "It was a nightmare for the girls," says Simon, 38, a partner in an estate agency. "They tried talking to their mother. but she was adamant that they should stay with her. She cried and raged at them, using emotional blackmail. I had no choice but to go back to court."

At this time of year the courts are swamped with lastminute applications for contact orders for children. It was widely rumoured to be a row with Bob Geldof over where his children were to spend the festive season that led to Paula Yates disastrous delayed flight to Australia last month. You can be sure that where the kids go for Christmas was high on the agenda in the recent divorce proceedings between Earl and Countess Spencer. Alison Hayes, a family law specialist at solicitors Mishcon

Christmas is a stressful time

for divorced couples, says Liz Gill

de Reya, says: The same people apply to the courts year after year. If you're taking court action over children it's obviously been an acrimonious divorce and Christmas quarrels are an extension of that. People feel so embittered by how badly an ex-spouse has behaved that they won't concede even 12 hours of their

children's time." Thelma Fisher, director of National Family Mediation, is anxious to encourage families to try mediation before they resort to the law. She says: "The courts are a clumsy method of solving things. By the time you get to court you are worked up with all the fighting. It doesn't always provide the best solution."

Carolyn and Adam Hebden have come to a compromise. They spend Christmas in Carolyn's mother's large house in Dorset with their three children and various relatives. They watch Sarah, eight, George, six, and threeyear-old Fred open their stockings. They go to church, dine on turkey and play games. Then they will go back to

separate houses.
"We decided to do it this way because anything else seemed too awful," says Carolyn, 38. "The separation was trau-

matic for the children so we try

ferent rooms but we try to do other things together, like watching the children opening their presents. It's a strain but it's only for a couple of days. If my ex-husband annoys me 1

that it is just for Christmas."

mends working out Christmas arrangements as far in advance as possible. "Even if you separate in midsummer, you should include it in your plans and consult the children if possible. Christmas is a pressure point because parents may feel a sense of failure more acutely at this time of year. Feelings can run very high. Children are doubly sensitive and dread the conflict turning on them. The worst thing they can feel is that they are being fought over."

to put them first. Christmas has always been a big deal for us and we thought we should work something out for their 'Obviously we sleep in dif-

leave the room.

"It can be quite difficult for my parents, welcoming him into their house with open arms but it can be good to have family members there." The biggest danger, she believes, is that the children

may see the festive reunion as a prelude to the real thing. 'Children always want their parents to get back together so you must make them realise Thelma Fisher recom-

Some parents, however, have left it too late. John Leicester has not had a full Christmas with his children since his 14-year marriage collapsed in 1991. "We are



supposed to take it in turns but my ex-wife always puts pressure on the children to be with her. I might be allowed an hour with them in the morning or for part of Boxing Day. \*Christmas used to be great

once but I feel it's not Christmas any more. My son is now 19 and my daughter 15 and those years have been lost. I know parents who are on their own at this time of year who feel suicidal.'

A common solution is to divide the holiday: one parent has Christmas Eve and half of Christmas Day; the other has the rest of Christmas Day and

Boxing Day. Jeremy Freedman, of solici-tors Freedman Green, a firm specialising in divorce cases. says: "I have this bleak vision of convoys of children crisscrossing the country at 5pm on Christmas Day. It seems a thoroughly miserable idea, but a lot of this is about the desires of the parents. In an egocentric age people often ask what is the best present they can give themselves and they decide it's having the kids."

In the Davies case, the law came down in favour of Heather. It was felt that what had worked as a system previously should not be threatened. Only children of nine and over are consulted by the court welfare officer. Simon says: "This year it's my turn to have the kids but if they are unhappy going to my exwife's house next year I will go back to court. Christmas is supposed to be a happy time, and if the kids aren't happy where they are, they should be

with their dad." All names have been changed. ■ National Family Mediation,



Christmas with Mummy or Daddy? At this time of year the courts are swamped with last-minute applications for contact orders for children

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### Queen's Counsel

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

n these two collections of the best of LThe Times's weekly legal cartoon strip Queen's Counsel by Steuart and Francis (one an ex-barrister turned Hollywood film animator, the other a practising solicitor) lawyers do not always come out on top. (Unlike in the real world where, according to the authors, win or lose, lawyers always get a fee. Worse, they speak gibberish and wear clothes that were in fashion during

the reign of Charles II. ) The cast of this ruthless satire on the

legal profession includes Sir Geoffrey Bentwood QC, Richard, from the law firm Paye Cash & Praye, and the victimised client Mr Sprockett. As Richard fiddles his time sheets. Sir Geoffrey is arrested for kerb-crawling. It will appeal to everyone who enjoys a laugh at the expense of the legal profession.

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Is it patronising to give Christmas boxes? Louisa Young takes advice on a tricky business



Christmas boxes," said the comedian on the telly. "This huge man came to my door and said: Merry Christmas. I'm the man who

emplies your bins.' Oh really? I replied. I'm the man who fills them." Which is all very amusing, but the fact remains: the Christmas box is a contentious issue. Some maintain vigorously that it is nothing more than a protection racket. If you want your rubbish removed rather than distributed along the garden path; if you want your parcels left with the neighbour rather than folded carefully along the "do not bend" instruction and crammed through the box; if you want your milk left in the shade on a sunny morning, then you must

stick those fivers in those envelopes and cheerily hand them over. I do not go along with the protection-racket view. I simply suspect the dustmen have better things to do through the rest of the year than remember who came up with the goods and who failed to deliver.

### There you are my good man

do you or don't you? John Morgan of The Times

Modern Manners column, and anthor of Debrett's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners. thinks we should. He says: "It's a gesture of goodwill and a very old tradition. When people ran large houses, it was as if they were running a company, and at Christmas every-one would get extra eash which would top up their wages and show they were appreciated.

Nowadays it is hard to know what to give. A simple rule is that you never tip management, only employees. So you would give a box to anyone that you pay for services, and to anyone who provides services regularly, and with whom you have

None of which answers the question: some kind of relationship - milkman, postman, dustbin man, anyone who delivers things regularly."

What about the cleaner? "Definitely. And you must give her a present. too, because it's such a personal relationship. You should give anything from £20 to £200, depending on your means. In a block of flats, you must give a box to the porters, the gardener, and the handyman. Don't just give it to the head porter to hand on, put it in individual envelopes with names on. It must always go in an envelope, because the handing-over of cash is potentially embarrassing. And put in a card — it really is

rcisted." What about the mother who picks your child up from school and gives him tea on a regular basis? "Don't give her money, give her a present. If you pay her as a childminder, then you must give her money. Favours get presents, payroll get tips."

Generosity is meant to be part of Christmas. But isn't it wrong when it is forced, when you are only generous for fear of being thought mean. especially when you find that there are ten people (eggman, vegetable man, postman, milkman, window cleaner, binmen, cleaner, childminder, handyman, gardener) to whom you are meant to give? And how much are you meant to give

Not less than E10 but E20 is better. Of course, it depends on your means. A fiver is better than nothing - it's the fact of giving that is really appreciated."

Ten people at £20 each would be £200 — quite a lot to be seen to be generous. The only answer is to be genuinely generous. And after all, if you are employing all those people you cannot be that poor. Or you could be genuinly skint, and face the consequences. And who knows? Perhaps someone will give you a

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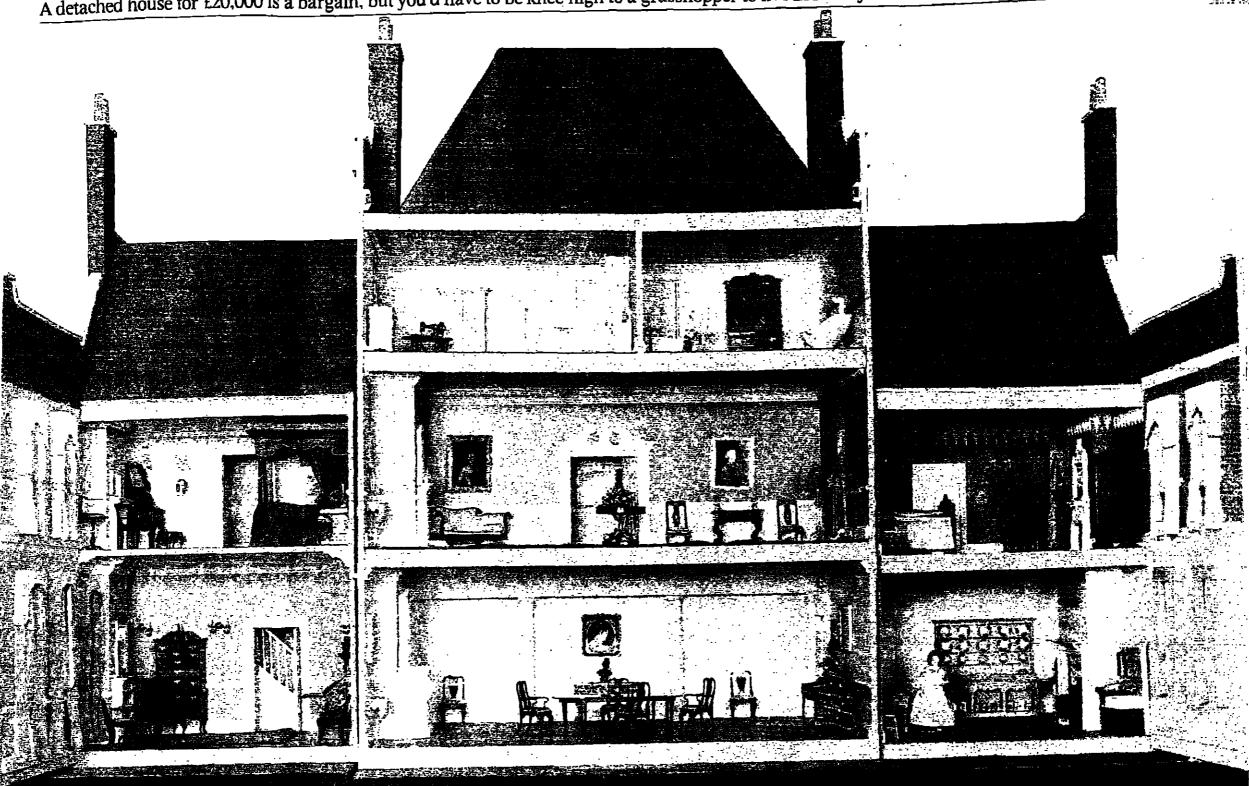
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A detached house for £20,000 is a bargain, but you'd have to be knee-high to a grasshopper to live in it. Guy Walters views a little house with big ideas



Simon Herrtage had this magnificent doll's house built as a present for his mother. The house is a copy of Island Hall, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, where the Herrtage family once lived. The furnishings alone are worth £8,000

### Small world isn't it?

f a doll's house is any good, then children should not be allowed anywhere near it. Kids. small, see the contents of doll's houses as dietary supplements, and will not blanch at lining their stomachs with bonsai furniture and the odd chimney. Lego is a much safer (and cheaper) alternative - so much harder for a child to chew than a miniature lacquered cupboard.

Doll's houses are undoubtedly for adults. They may pretend they bought it for little Jemima, but it's crusts and water for a week if she even touches it. After all, adults don't break things, only child-

Neither, it appears, are doll's houses for women. This is a big-bucks world for big boys with big wallets. As with chefs, most of the famous craftsmen are men. Perhaps only men have the ridiculous fastidiousness required to hand-carve a 4in Welsh dresser or make a Christmas pudding the size of a ball bearing.

Simon Herrtage is one such man. He is the vendor of Island Hall, a magnificent pile of a doll's house on sale through Savills for £20,000. With a length of six foot, it is perhaps larger than that Knightsbridge broom cupboard which appears on the market every five years. Mr

DREAM DOLL'S HOUSES

Titania's Palace (above) was designed by Sir

Nevile Wilkinson for his daughter. The 16-room palace, which took 15 years to build and

was opened by Queen Mary in 1922, has elec-

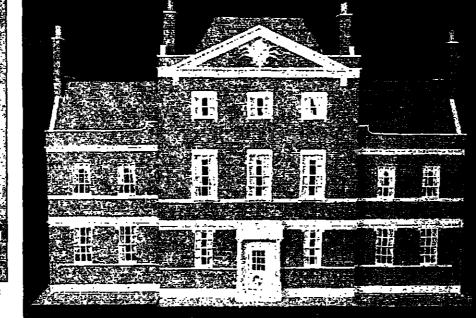
tricity, heating and a painting by Sir Samuel Palmer. It was sold to Legoland in Denmark in

1978 for £135,000, where it is on display.



The minute furnishings in Island Hall are exquisitely detailed

Herrtage commissioned James Hamilton Hastings to build the doll's house in 1985 for £12,000. It was a present for his mother, who had lived with him at the original house in Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire. Mr Herrtage had bought the house as a ruin in 1978 for £28,000, and over the next few years he restored it and installed his mother there. before selling it in 1983. Island Hall Junior is a



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

was starting to take up too much space in Mr Herrtage's mother's flat, hence the reason for its sale. The asking price is exceptionally good value, as Mr Herrtage says that he has spent 58,000 on the furnishings. Thus £20,000 is cost price, making Island Hall one of the few properties to ignore the perilous fluctuations of the memento, but a memento that housing market.

was exquisite. Mr Herrtage's masterpiece It is also exquisite. The adjective may well be a cliche when applied to doll's houses, but in this case it is utterly appropriate. When the doors are opened, it really is akin to

entering a house where the Borrowers would feel luxuri-ously at home. Take the kitchen, at the bottom right of the house. Next to the cooker there is even a drawer full of you've guessed it, there is a pair of tiny false teeth. miniature cutlery, as well as a range made from real cast iron. And on the table you will Below that bedroom is a find Mr Herrtage's mini-Christmas pudding. The kitchen, however,

is basic compared with the other rooms, all of which are based on the real Island Hall. Above it is the Gothic bedroom. in which is found the most expensive items of furniture - the lacquered wardrobe, bed and dressing mirror, which cost Mr Herrtage £1,000. You could go mad in Ikea with this sort of money.

There is another significantly pricey item — the Carlton House table in the ground-floor dining hall, which is valued at about £750. Even its tiny drawers are dovetailed together.

The table and chairs in the dining hall were made by Patrick Puttock, a retired soldier. "There seem to be a lot of old colonels involved in the doli's house world," says Mr Herriage. The fascination for men is seeing how well something can be reproduced." If this is the case, then Mr Puttock must be having a great retirement, because his work is exemplary.

Mr Herrtage made much of the furniture himself. He is an interior decorator, so his professional skills lend themselves well to his hobby. "I became interested in doll's houses when I saw Titania's

Palace on show in Harrods many years ago," he says, "It

is the four-poster bed in the bedroom at the top left of the house. It took him months to make, and even the silk is antique - bought at auction. "Modern silks don't lend themselves to being used this small." he says, "so I had to find an antique." Next to the bed is a table, upon which there is a glass, in which,

study - a very male study. with a campaign chair and a pair of pistols. There is a photo album, and in it are tiny photographs, but the study is not male enough to boast an album of erotica surreptitiously tucked into a drawer, although Mr Herrtage con-fessed that it was a good idea. No doubt, if you read the right collectors' magazines, you will find some miniature pornography somewhere.

• Island Hall is at Savills, 139 Sloane Street, London SWIX 9AY. Viewing is by appointment only. Contact Clare Berry on 0171-824 9016.



These tiny books in the

A REPORT from the Land Registry shows a 7.7 per cent rise in average residential property prices in England and Wales during the three months to the end of September, compared with the same period last year. The average price of a home was £79.804. compared with £74,088 a year ago. The figures also show a rise in prices of 3.2 per cent on the previous three months Kensington and Chelsea (up 15 per cent) is still the most expensive London borough, with an average price of £287.510. The biggest increase in prices was in the City of Westminster, and Hammersmith and Fulham, with gains of more than 22 per cent. Greater London prices moved up 12 per cent, with an average price of almost £120,000.

The most expensive county is Surrey (up 13 per cent), wh £127,000 and Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire at about £107,000. However, prices may have peaked, in the first six months of this year, average prices in England and Wales were up 9 per cent on the previous year, 13 per cent in London, according



This charming four-bedroom freehold period house (a former dairy), with a large roof terrace, in Old Church Street, between the King's Road and Cheyne Walk in London's Chelsea, has a price tag of £850,000 (Aylesford, 0171-351 2383).



For a little more (£875,000), you can buy Scords Farmhouse, a Grade II listed 16th-century six-bedroom Kentish farmhouse in 6.5 acres of formal gardens, paddocks and woodland, at Toys Hill, near Sevenoaks, Kent. It comes with a two-bedroom cottage. period outbuildings and stables (Lane Fox, 01732 459900).



In North Yorkshire £850,000 will buy Sheriff Hutton Hall, a Grade I listed, 12-bedroom Queen Anne-style manor house in 105 acres of walled gardens, parkland and woodland. It is ideal for entertaining with five reception rooms, a music room and a ballroom (Saville, 01904 620731). CHERYL TAYLOR



Lacquered wardrobe from the Gothic bedroom

#### **MARKET COMMENT**

DOLL'S HOUSE collectors may not need to worry about mortgages or surveyor's re-ports, but they'll have to be prepared to put down more than Monopoly money. The house is only the beginning costs really start to mount once you begin to fill it.

The majority of adult collectors want to recreate a world in miniature and to play with it: they buy a doll's house or a kit to make one themselves, or have one built by a craftsman, and then fill it with handmade furniture in keeping with the period. These are modern, though often highquality Georgian or Victorian reproductions, the important factor is the scale, which is

usually one-twelfth life-size. They are catered for by numerous craft fairs, shops such as the Singing Tree in Fulham or the Doll's House Shop in Covent Garden, both in London, and specialist magazines such as International Dolf's House News and Doll's House World.

A TRIP to the doll's house department in Hamley's, the toy shop in London, will set you back between £40 and £175 for the furnishings. The bill then rises rapidly with a ceramic bath costing £60 and a double bed £40. Unfurnished houses from a topclass modern craftsman such as Kevin Mulvany, mean-while, start at £20,000. It can be an expensive business to keep a second house, even a miniature one.

The second and much smaller group of doll's house enthusiasts are collectors of antique toys. A good 1930s or 1950s house can be picked up for £200 or £300 but those from the 18th century are rare and valued at £10.000 plus. The major auction houses

have several antique toy sales each year at which a section is devoted to doli's houses. The next such auction is at Christie's on February 12, and features around 40 lots.

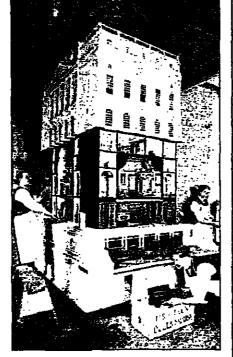
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built by Viscount Linley as a showcase for his cabinet-making skills. Inspired by the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, the doll's has three house floors and nine rooms. It took 700 hours to build and more than 2,000 pieces of veneur were used throughout the structure.

Gothic villa (left)



Queen Mary's Doll's House (above). designed by the architect Sir Edwin Lutvens. was built in 1921-24 as a gift to the Queen from the nation. Based on an English gentleman's home, the house has more than 40 moms on four floors with two staircases. lifts, electric lights, hot and cold running water and lavatories that flush. It includes the work of 1,500 tradesmen, artists and authors. such as Thomas Hardy and Rudyard Kipling. It is on display at Windsur Castle.



### Builders spoil the view for City slickers

he penny has finally dropped in the Square Mile Bankers, barristers and those who grow rich in the City have realised that it is now becoming possible to live

New schemes abound, but be warned. Those seduced by the prospect of living in the shadow of St Paul's may find that the speed of City development could obscure their view.

Once the area between Old Street in the north and the Thames in the south had only the Barbican for those wishing to don their pyjamas. But London's revival as a world financial centre has led to a huge increase in the number of new flats being built in the area.

The recovery in commercial rents, from a low of around £35 per sq it seven years ago to around £40 per sq ft today, has meant that older buildings too small for the modern offices currently in great demand are being turned into flats. Stephen Hurford, a partner at City estate agents Hurford Salvi

Carr, says prices for new flats in the City doubled between January 1995 and October 1997. The average twobedroom flat now costs £275,000.

Barratt Homes has just completed 50 flats at Globe View, a former. There are

disadvantages to living in London's Square Mile — like shopping centres on

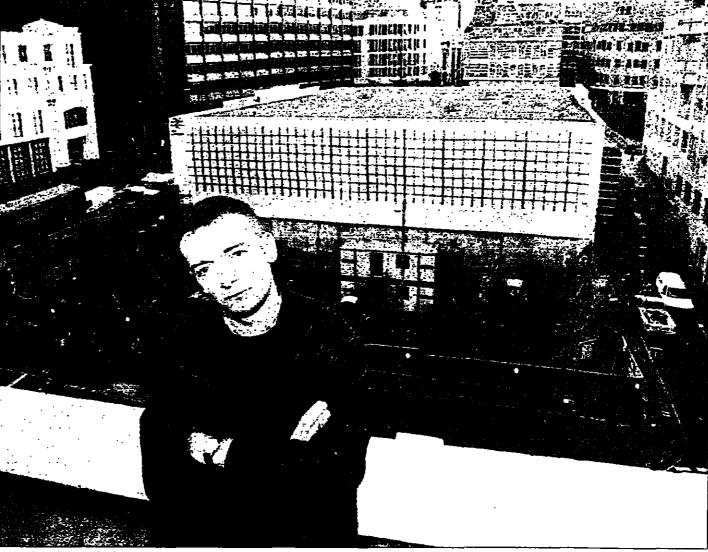
your doorstep, Rachel Kelly writes

warehouse on the bank of the

Thames between the bridges of Blackfriars and Southwark. Barclays Bank, through its property arm, has developed five two

and three-bedroom flats in former office space above its bank in Fleet Street. Once the haunt of hungry hacks, the Street of Shame is now going "rezzie", as they say in the trade. Within days, Hurford Salvi Carr reported that all five flats, with prices up to £400,000, had been reserved off plan by three barristers and two bankers.

"The pressures of commuting and long working hours have seen many high-flyers keen to relocate nearer their place of work." says



Mark Dowd, above, bought his apartment with views of St Paul's. New developments, above left, will soon block them

Myles Bridges, a partner with City agent Farebrother, says: "Of the large volume of units currently nearing completion and coming on to the market, 40 per cent have already been sold."

Living close to work is convenient, but there are other factors to consider - the "shadow effect", for If small pockets of residential

conversions are permitted, then any subsequent developments of commercial premises nearby, with the attendant construction chaos, could lead to a conflict of interests.

ier this year he moved into a

of St Paul's Cathedral. but later there turned out to be a catch. The site opposite Bride Court had been sold for development, and a large new

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building would eventually block out these views.

Mr Dowd found out about this development and still decided to Mark Dowd, a producer for BBC buy, but other developments even television's Panorama, discovered closer to home have now come to this drawback the hard way. Earllight. At the centre of Bride Court is

a small shopping areade, which

E145,000 apartment in a new has traditionally housed quiet occudevelopment in a former office building of 17 flats at Bride Court, pants, including a bookshop, cleaners and delicatessen. The mood is set to change, with a pub extension and wine bar expected to be filled with raucous City traders celebrate was initially seduced by the prospect of views

ing their bonuses. Residents have been mollified by planning stipulations that soundproofing will be installed, but their disappointment remains acute. None were aware of the pub

extension, even though the Bride Court developers, Gandy Street Properties, were in negotiation with pub owner Bass last January.

Jonathan Kessel of Gandy Street Properties says: "We made no mention of the pub extension because Bride Court is already in a busy area, and we thought the impact was minimal."

Mr Dowd realises that the root of the problem rests with buyers exchanging contracts often months before the work is completed. More than 80 per cent of Bride Court was sold before completion.

"I exchanged contracts in January, and my solicitor conducted searches in October and November 1996, so it is not surprising no mention was found of the pub extension or wine har. The quantity of new development in the City means that buyers should conduct careful searches before exchanging contracts."

 Additional research by Mark Cronne

#### **SMART MOVES**

■ THE Lloyd Webbers cannot decide whether to sell their £15 million Eaton Square home. The central London house went on the market last February, but Savills told recent would-be buyers that the house was off the market. Now it is back on again and Savills has been told to keep mum for fear of making the Lloyd Webbers seem indecisive.



Lord Lloyd Webber

THE former home of longoverlooked author John Cow-per Powys (1872-1963) is for sale at £425,000 through Knight Frank. The country house, in the village of Montacute. Somerset, was the childhood home of the writer. poet and essayist. The area features in many of his works.



Ruth Rendell

RUTH Rendell has sold her Regent's Park home in a private gated mews. The two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment with a 24ft reception room fetched £325,000 through Arlington Residential.

■ TAKI Theodoracopulos. Sunday Times columnist, has traded down, moving from a large flat in Cadogan Square, central London, that fetched El million, to a smaller flat in the same area.

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### The new owners of Lewis Carroll's former family home plan to revive its connection with Alice

### Adventures in a new Wonderland

aking alterations to a house is difficult enough when there is only the local planning department, the architect and the builders to contend with. But when David and Berry Baker start work on their new home. The Chestnuts in Guildford, Surrey. they will also have on them the eyes of the whole town and of Lewis Carroll enthusiasts worldwide.

Many local people are still ag-grieved that Guildford Borough Council decided not to buy the thouse when its owners for the past 40 years. Sir Christopher Pinsent and his wife Mary, put it on the market earlier this year. Lewis Carroll (the Rev Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) rented the house as a home for his seven sisters for 30 years from 1868.

He visited them there during his vacations from Oxford, died at the house in 1898 and is buried in a cemetery visible from its upper floors. Fans still flock to the town to see his papers and other relics in the Guildford Museum, and to visit

his grave.
The Chestnuts, a Grade II listed. four-storey, six-bedroom Victorian town house, with many of its original features, is a natural site for a dedicated Lewis Carroll museum, but the council could not afford the combination of an asking price of £750,000 and the costs of conversion and annual upkeep. This left the way clear for David Baker, a City solicitor, and his wife

Berry, to buy it.
Properties like this do not come on the market very often. says Mrs Baker, who is on the board of governors at Moon Hall School. Holmbury St Mary, Surrey, a school for dyslexic children where she was once head teacher.

With the help of an architect, lan Adam-Smith, the Bakers will spend up to a year having The Chestnuts altered before finally moving in with their children. Daniel and Helen. The work should stand the scrutiny of locals, who had hoped

#### **FACT FILE**

■ Annual membership of the Lewis Carroll Society (UK) is £13.

Write to Sarah Stanfield, secretary, the Lewis Carroll Society. Acoms, Dargate, near Faversham, Kent MEB OHG. ■ The tape Twelve Carroll Scholars Read Alice with Jabbewocky in Sir Tongues, is marketed by the Japanese Lewis Carroll Society and Yohan Publications Inc of Tokyo (fax 00 81 3 3204 2582). ■ Clarke Gammon, the estate agents which sold The Chestnuts. has a similar property. Castle Hill. Guildford, for sale. Contact Tony Jamieson on 01483 572266. ■ Ian Adam-Smith. of The Little House, Frensham Priory, Frensham, Farnham, Surrey

for a Lewis Carroll museum. because the Bakers intend to be fastidious about conserving and enhancing the house's historic connection.

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'We wouldn't have made an offer for the house had the council been able to afford it," Mrs Baker says. "But we thought that, if it couldn't be a museum, it would be better for it to continue as a family home. which it has been for most of its 136 years.

It was the house itself that attracted us. It's such a pretty Georgian-style building in red brick with a roof of Welsh slates. The views over the Wye Valley are outstanding, yet we can walk to the high street in minutes and the station is only half a mile away.

"For us, the Lewis Carroll connection is a bonus, but also a responsibility. We are taking it on trust to preserve the house's character and identity while, obviously, wanting to make it comfortable for



discovered, if you have an historic family house, you have to find a middle way of preserving it as much as possible, while having the basic amenities that a modern family needs."

Before buying The Chestnuts, Mrs Baker toured the house to see what could be done to preserve existing features and improve it by replacing some of the items that have been removed over the years.

Although the Pinsents kept the house in good order, they did not significantly alter it. "It's a perfectly ordinary house really," says Sir Christopher, a retired lecturer and tutor in painting and drawing at Camberwell School of Art in south London. "We kept a lot of the house's original features, such as picture rails and architraves. Of course, there is not the same paint on the walls as in Lewis Carroll's time, but we did find Victorian hav in the hayloft over the coach house when we converted it to make an artist's studio."

he basement rooms - the cook's parlour, wine cellar. kitchen scullery, storeroom and fuel store - are still more or less as they were when Lewis Carroll's surviving sister moved out in 1919.

The Baker's top priority will be to repair the roof to make sure it's

good for the next 50 years, Mrs Baker says. "We also want to restore the dining room to how it must have been in Lewis Carroll's time. I'm a history graduate and I shall enjoy researching that. No one knows exactly which was Lewis Carroll's bedroom, although it has been speculated that it might be the present kitchenette on the second floor. It will be interesting to see if we find any clues when we are working on the house.

"As to furniture, we've been lucky because, years ago, we acquired all the pieces with which some distant relatives of ours furnished their home in 1879. It's basic Victorian stuff but will look just right here."

ACCESSORIES





The house's historic plaque

The Bakers hope that the scaffolding will be down by next May. when Guildford holds its Lewis Carroll centenary events.

The Chestnuts is on the itinerary of several guided walks planned for 1998 and will be a centre of attention for Lewis Carroll enthusiasts, with visitors expected from as far afield as America and Japan to mark the hundredth anniversary of the writer's death on January 14. 1308. And here, too, the Bakers seem well qualified to be the new owners of the house, because both speak Japanese, having returned to Britain earlier this year from Tokyo, where Mr Baker ran one of his law firm's branches.

It should not be long after the Bakers move in that they encounter the first Japanese tourist on their doorstep and, like their predecessors, have to explain that The Chestnuts is not open to the public. Unlike their predecessors, however, they will be able to greet the Japanese in their own tongue.

The Japanese connection with the house began about 15 years ago when Sir Christopher was approached, while painting his gate. by a professor of English at Tokyo University, who revealed that he had translated into Japanese Lewis Carroll's Jabberwocky (Twas brillig, and the slithy toves. . . . ), which some of us find difficult enough to translate into English. Suitably impressed. Sir Christopher gave his visitor a tour of the house, and ever since has received monthly copies of the Japanese Lewis Carroll Society newsletter. A recent issue contains an article by him about the history of The

Chestnuts. Last year. Sir Christopher was invited by the society to record a chapter of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland on tape, the sale of which helps to pay for the restora-tion of the Dodgson graves in Guildford.

The town's Mad Hatter's Tea Party will not be staged at The Chestnuts, however. "We had some lovely tea parties here when our three children were young," Sir Christopher says, "but we didn't make a theme of the Lewis Carroll connection. We just lived in the house. The important thing is, it's a happy house, with no ghosts."

With the Bakers in residence. Lewis Carroll will, perhaps, be more to the fore. "I'll quite likely join the Lewis Carroll Society." Mrs Baker says, "and a friend has already given me a White Rabbit

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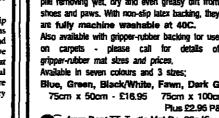
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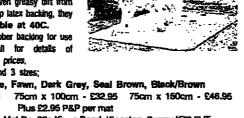
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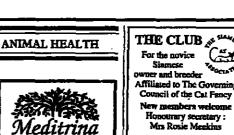
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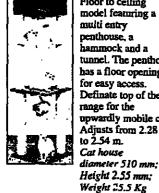
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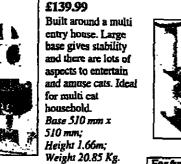
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#### A VET WRITES

For the past few years I've sent a Christmas cheque to two animal charilies, different ones each year, but there are so many good causes that I can't decide for 1997. Any suggestions?

A The Blue Cross celebrated its centenary in May this year, so you could give a combined birthday and Christmas present. It is a "hands-on" charity and treats sick and injured animals at its hospitals, provides horse ambulances, and rescues and rehomes unwanted pers of all types. The Blue Cross is at Shilton Road, Burford, Ox-fordshire OXI8 4PF.

Alternatively, you might like to consider the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Trust Fund, which gives grants and scholarships for research into animal diseases and funds specialised equip-ment used in veterinary schools and clinics. It also finances a professional li-brary, available to every ver in the country (and overseas) who needs information about new techniques or animal diseases, fresh discoveries or rare incidences which, one day, could help your ver to help your pet. The address is: RCVS Trust Fund, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SWIP 2AF.

Last summer we lost two rabbits with bloat after giving them lettuces which had gone to seed. I thought I was giving them a treat, but fellow rabbit keepers tell me I should have known better. Wild rabbits get into gardens and eat lettuce without getting bloat. Are domesticated ones different? Was it my fault? Is lettuce dangerous?

A Lettuce is not dangerous in itself, but too much, too suddenly can be fatal, so in that sense you were to blame. Herbivorous animals digest green food only after it has been changed by fermenta-tion. Yeasts and bacteria convert cellulose and starch in green matter into sugars which can be digested in other parts of the intestine. Cows and sheep have a huge first stomach (60 gallons in a large cow) which acts as a fermen-

tation chamber. Horses and rabbits have a greatly enlarged colon and caecum towards the hind end of the digestive tract which serve the same purpose. If these animals eat large amounts of lush, highly fermentable food, fermentation goes into overdrive and huge

ies of gas are formed. This can't get away by normal belching and the animal blows up. The rabbit's colon or the cow's stomach is drum tight with gas. This stops normal breathing and circulation and, if it's not relieved very quickly, is fatal. Wild rabbits don't get the chance to gorge on lush food. Their diet changes slowly with the seasons — so their fermentation process adjusts itself to cope with gradual change.

Our four gerbils live on a seed mixture from the pet shop and a few bits of green food and carrots. They search for the sunflower seeds and always eat them first, often leaving the crushed oats and maize, which we throw out for the birds. Would it matter if we just gave them sunflowers and their vegetables?

A diet of sunflower seeds A diet of surmower and a few veg could lead to obesity — sunflower seeds have a high fat content — and calcium deficiency since the calcium content is very low. This might produce bone and joint problems. Harden your heart. Apply the granny principle - no pudding until you've finished all the cabbage. Alternatively, buy compound pelleted foods made for pet rats and mice. This would be better still.

JAMES ALLCOCK Write to The Times Vet.
Weekend. The Times,
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#### ADOPT ME



Lucky: good-natured

LUCKY is a 13-year-old tancoloured mongrel who has been at the RSPCA centre for eight months. Although she is hard of hearing, she is healthy and good-natured and would suit a quiet home with a loving owner.

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### Set for Lambeth walk

The bets are already piling on for the Bishop of London to replace

Dr Carey, says Damian Thompson

ho is going to be the next Archbishup of Canterbury? The question cannot be put off for much longer: George Carey has said that he will not serve out his full term, and there is a theory - officially denied, but gaining currency - that next year's Limbeth conference will be

his swansong.
When the last conference met, in 1988, the world's Anglican bishop's were fascinated by the question of who was going to succeed Robert Runcie though, in the absence of an obvious successor, all sorts of bizarre rumours did the rounds.

This time, the bets are piling on to just one runner: the Right Rev Richard Chartres. the Bishop of London.

And why nor? The self-effacing Archbishop of York. David Hope, is believed to shudder at the thought of further promotion; the Bishops of Durham (Michael Turnbull) and Oxford (Richard Harries) are not thought to be in the running. Which leaves the Church's third most senior prelate, the Bishop of London, as the obvious choice. But hang on. We are talking here about a bishop who

conforms to familiar episcopal stereotypes. The lofty and deep-voiced Chartres is neither an ambinous and emollient liberal placeman, like most of the current bench, nor an earnest evangelical, like

Preachers and journalists have this in commmon: it is their

to find the right words. It is their job

to put the world into words and to put

words into the world. Readers and congregations expect it from them.

The season of Advent brings the

challenge and the dilemmas of find-

ing words for Christmas, of choosing

outrage - from complaints about

overindulgence and materialism.

outrageous Jesus Christ. But people

are bored with the Church complain-

ing about Christmas: there's a kind of

peevishness about a lot of it - per-

haps even a repressed envy of other

people having a better time than we

some and rejecting others.

business, week by week, to try

Carey: he is not even a crypto-Papist Anglo-Catholic. What he is, however, is the most eccentric - and perhaps the most naturally gifted -cleric to reach high office in the

Two years ago, at the age of 48. Chartres was plucked from the backwater of Stepney to take on the whole of London. much to the astonishment of one or two diocesan bishops who fancied the job. (There was acute disappointment in Oxford.) But the real surprise, say friends, is not that Chartres got London but that he managed to get himself ordained in the first place. In fact, the first time round, he

C of E for decades.

didn't. Why? Because he is a passionate reactionary, and when he was at theological college in the late Sixties that was an even graver Anglican sin than

After Cambridge, Young Chartres joined an ordination course but found himself so marginalised by his support for the Book of Common Prayer that he went to work as warehouse clerk for Sainsbury's.

After a second course. Chartres seemed to be no happier: he is described in Humphrey Carpenter's biography of Lord Runcie as being so frightened at the prospect of being ordained that he ran away to his bedroom, teeth chattering with nerves. But Runcie said: "Well. I'm going to go ahead



From Sainsbury's to Lambeth? Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London (left), with Canon John Oates of St Bride's, Fleet Street

and ordain him. I believe that the grace of Holy Orders will work on him." And it did: so dramatically

The most

gifted

cleric to

reach high

office for

decades'

that when Runcie became Archbishop of Canterbury he made him his

Marriage also helped. Caroline Chartres is the daughter of Alan McLintock, the influential merchant banker who chairs the Church's central board of finance; she is pretty and charming, as four their young children.

Having such a presentable family has done much to render Richard's eccentricities acceptable," a friend says. Yet Chartres remains the

most unusual figure in the Church. This is apparent as soon as he steps on to the sanctuary of St Paul's, where

he conducts himself like a Russian patriarch, crossing himself fastidiously in the Orthodox fashion from right to left instead of left to right. (His love of Orthodoxy is said to extend to distaste

> cism. It may also account for his beard.) At other times, Chartres models himself on the great 19th-century High Church divines. He wears frock coats, which make him look much like Arch-

for Roman Catholi-

deacon Grantly. preaches. He splendidly, in a grand manner and stentorian voice which could not be further removed from the Thought for the Dav unctuousness of his fellow bishops. His handwriting is Victorian copperplate. He dislikes "office wallahs", and Gladstone" as if the Grand Old Man were still alive.

He does not ordain women, though he allows others to do so on his behalf. He uses the Prayer Book whenever possible. Yet his politics are nothing like as reactionary as his other beliefs might imply. He has campaigned long and hard against racism. He is attracted to the philosophy of communitarianism and believes that the Church must lead a spiritual revival in the

ranmer and community: does this particular mixture sound oddly familiar? Of course it does. Not for nothing did the Prince of Wales ask Chartres, his Cambridge contemporary, to confirm Prince William, appearing to snub Dr Carey in the

process. In the Bishop of London. Charles has found a priest

may explain why he seemed to cross himself in the Orthodox manner at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales).

The rest of the Royal Family, too, finds Chartres far more congenial than his colleagues - and certainly more so than Dr Carey, whose social awkwardness embarrasses them.

Royal approval is Chartres's trump card: it still matters enormously to the circle of deferential church officials who decide appointments. Then there is the Blair

factor. The Prime Minister is unimpressed by the bland managerial style favoured by so many leading bishops, and may well use his influence to install someone unusual and forceful at Lambeth.

As a result, a wonderfully ironic prospect looms: that the Church of England, after decades of attempts to modernise itself, will be led into the 21st century by a bishop who has never really reconciled himself to the passing of the 19th.

### Bishop rises heavenwards



Ruth Gledhill witnesses

an up-lifting ceremony with the aid of a crane

THE BISHOP of Winchester, purple cassock billowing in the wind, ascended into the heavens to beseech God's blessing on St Luke. the patron saint of doctors. butchers, painters and notaries. Doubtless the the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt would have preferred to keep his feet on the ground. But the newly carved stone representation of St Paul's "beloved" physician, the celibate author of the third gospel, was resting in an inaccessible niche 100ft above the ground at

Epsom College, Surrey. The bishop and the college headmaster, Anthony Beadles, had no choice but to rise into the air with the help of a huge crane for the blessing ceremony. Dozens of boys and girls watched their perilous ascent with something approaching

speculative anticipation.

The statue of St Luke symbolises the college's origins as the royal medical benevolent school for orphan sons of doctors. More than 30 former pupils still go into medicine each year. a record unequalled by any

other school. Face to face with the statue, which stands over the main school entrance. replacing an earlier model which had become worn and unsafe, the bishop pronounced his benediction. He prayed that, as we looked on carved figures of the saints, we might recall their holy example and follow their pattern of holiness. "We ask you to bless and hallow this statue fashioned in honour and memory of blesed Luke, your Apostle and patron saint." he said, twice making the

sign of the cross. To everyone's relief, the bishop and headmaster managed to ascend and descend safely, wanched by the college chaplain, the Rev Brian Roberts; the vicar

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VISITOR: The Fight Rev Michae Ston-John Bishop of Amphesian ARCHITECTURE: Founded 1855: Gotha-shie \*\*\* MUSIC: College chor and Macingal Society sand swee! \*\*\* SPIRITUAL HIGH: Hugaly cantal \*\*\* AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Roest and \*\*\*

of Epsom, the Rev David Smethurst: local dignitaries and the college council.

Epsom College, in an idvilic 80-acre setting near the racecourse on the Downs, has 650 pupils. most boarding full-time or weekly from the age of 13. The chapel is dedicated to St Luke, and contains a wood carving by Jan Smith, who

worked with Epstein. Later, speaking at the post-dedication celebrations, George Pincus, the vice-chairman of the college council, referred to the pressure to achieve good exam results, to succeed in terms of league tables, to compete in every sphere of life. That's why I welcome the dedication of our statue of St Luke," he said. "It is more than a physical act: it gives us all time to pause and reflect on the true values that we are all seek-

ing in education." He thanked the housemistresses, masters, prefects and head of school. Giles Tongue, for helping to keep the college at the top of the "unseen" league table -"the one that really matters and is represented by St Luke and our mono, Deo non fortuna".

Epsom College, Surrey KT17
 4IQ (01372 821004).

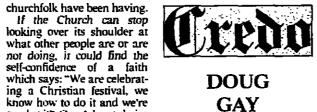


The Bishop of Winchester aloft with St Luke

### The word that should haunt us at Christmas

churchfolk have been having. Some of us in the churches have spent a lot of time complaining about mas. Christmas provokes words of self-confidence of a faith which says: "We are celebrat-Santa (which is, some assure us, an ing a Christian festival, we anagram of Satan) and mistletoe (a know how to do it and we're good at it". One Advent choice pagan leftover) to diatribes against might be to give the words of Granted the Church needs to speak outrage time out and take up words words of outrage or it would not be the Church of the outraged and

Christmas has also prompted the Church to reach for defensive words and engage in fighting talk. In the modern age, Christians have been angst-ridden about how to defend the faith against rationalist attacks and the steamroller of scientific reason.



The Festival of the Nativity has been a source of some embarrassment to the Church: virgins and postmenopausal women get pregnant. angels turn up right, left and centre, wise men follow stars from the East. the sky God turns into the earth God. But that was then. In our postmodern age, being honest to God no

rush to demythologise or defend the stories, because these days the old bullets are and "modern rationality" are on trial themselves and can't make the old charges against Christianity stick. The nativity stories have got out of jail free, passed Go again and

started running around with money to spend. As Paul said, the word of God is not in chains. If so, we can afford to set aside fighting talk, decommission offensive or defensive words and take up the kind of words needed, not to engage an argument but to tell a story. That shift matters also, because the Church on the

for compromise words; words which smooth the roughness and empty out the mystery. But since the earliest days of the Church, Christmas has been a poetry-producing event. If the story crystallises at all, it crystallises into paradox, into defiant words in glorious tension with one another: the image of the invisible, the body of the untouchable God, the child who is truly God and truly human. In these words of creeds and carols, in the beautiful and outrageous poetry of orthodoxy, we find words to be sung and savoured and believed.

defensive is always tempted to reach

In the end though, when all our choices about words have been made, and columns been written and sermons preached, there is one great Christmas word left to haunt our words and mock them and turn them into lies. It is the word which questions who we speak for, where we speak from and the lengths that we will go to in order to mean what we say. The word is flesh.

Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Churches, East London.

### SHOPAROUND

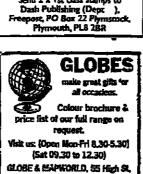




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#### Church services for tomorrow Third Sunday of Advent ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Naylor in G, The Archdeacon; 3.15 Ch E & Litany. Wood in C minor. BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; II Ch Euch, Sumsion in F: 3.15 Ch E: 5 Gosber. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch; 3.30 Carols for Hospice. BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Darke in F; 4 Ch E: 6.30 Carol Concert. BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15

Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Canon Galilee: 4 Ch E. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, !! Euch. Canon N Hall; 3.30 E. Kelway in A minor BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Bristol Mass (Latham), Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Ch E, Stanford in G. CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC; 9.30 M: 11 S Euch, Ridout in F: 3.15 E. Moore in E: 6.30 Sermon & Complia CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch: 3.30 Popular Carol Service. CHELMSPORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11.15 Ch M. Jackson in G; 6 Ch E. Canon B Thomoson

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7,45 Litany; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn). CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M: 11 S Euch. Hosanna (Gibbons). The CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Dublin: II S Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Collegium Regale (Howells). CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Missa venatorum (Lassus), Canon Peirce: 6 E.

CORK CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11.15 \$ COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8 C: 10.30 Euch: 2.30 Anglo/German Carol Service; 5 Ch E, Holman in F minor. DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch: 2.30 Masons Carol Service: 6 Ch E. DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 HC, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), Canon D Brown; 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Mass for 3 voices (Byrd); 3.45 E. EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch; 11.15 M, Canon D Ison: 3 E. Harwood in A flat, 6.30 ES. GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10.15 Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina). Canon N Chatfield; 12.15 HC; 3 E.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch: 11.30 M, Sumsion in D: 3.30 E, Wood in F. Canon B Chave. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; (Hutchings): 4 Ch E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Rev A Daffern: 3.30 E, Murrill in E. LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 745 Litany: 8

HC; 9.30 S Euch; II.I5 M; IZ.30 HC; 3.45 EP: 7.30 BBC Radio Carol Service. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 Euch; 3 Blessing of the crib; 4 HC. LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8.9 HC: 11 S Euch: 12.15 HC; 3.30 E, Gray in F minor;

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch; 6.30 E. **NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8** HC: 9.30 S Euch, Canon P Strange: 6 Ch E. NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.15 HC: 10.30 M; 6.30 Ch E, Stewart in C. NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC 9.15 C, Darke in F: 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 E: 7 Norwich School Carol Service

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, The Dean; 3.30 E, Walmisley in D minor. PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 C; Il S Euch. Rev J Grindell; 6.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells). ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Canon J Armson; 3.15 E. sbury Service (Lloyd). SALISBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10

Euch: 11.30 M. Jackson in G: 3 Ch E. SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, 2.30 Carols: 6.30 E & Sermon, Second Service (Gibbons). SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; II Ch Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne): 3 Ch Gloucester Service (Howells)... SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L: 8 HC: 9.30 C: 11 S Euch: 3.15 E, Walmisley in

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M: 10 S WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9,15 C. Canon R Gage: 11 Solemn Euch. Sumsion in G. Canon R Capper; 4 E. WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Mass for 5 voices (Byrd); 11.30 M; 3

D minor, 5.45 Compline.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M: 11.15 Euch, Darke in F; 3 E; 5.45 Organ Recital, Martin Baker, 6.30 ES. WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass: 10.30 Sol Mass: 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Sol V; 5.30, 7 Mass. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M. Stanford in C; 11.15 S Euch; 3.30 E. YORK MINSTER: 8, 8,45 HC: 10 S Fuch: 1.30 M: 4 E, Second Service (Gibbons): 7 St Michael-le-Belfrey church Carol Service.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL Herdord

Messe Basse (Fauré): 6,30 E.

shire: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11 Solemn Euch,

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC: II Ch M, Rev K Goulstone. ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; II.15 Ch M, Sumsion in B flat; 6 Ch E. Walmisley in D minor.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Canon M Mingins; 11.45 HC; 3.30 Ch E, St Paul's Service (Howells). ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, South-wark: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass, Rorate Coeli (Haydu), Fr G F Bradley; 6 LM. ST GILES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8. 10 HC; II.30 MS, Laetentur coeli (Byrd); 6

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old deen: 11 MS, Rev R Frazer; 6 ES. ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Rev J Cuthbert; 3.30 Ch E, Bairstow in G; 6.30 Sung Compline. ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 M; 3.15 Carols for all. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; II S Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Canon M Saward: 3.15 E. Stanford in B flat. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHE-DRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony. ALL SAINTS, WI: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Mass in B flat (Schubert); 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Rev I Davies. ALL SOULS, WI: 8 C; 9.30 Family Carol

Service: II.30 MP: 6.30 Carol Service. THE ASSUMPTION, WI: II MS. CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC, 10 Children's Service, 11 M; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Mr D Royce CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOT-

LAND, WC2: 11.15 MS; 6.30 ES, Rev S Hood FARM STREET, WI: 8, 9.30 LM; II HM; 12.30 LM; 4.15, 6.15 LM. HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC: Il Christingle Service, Rev N Lee; 5.

7.30 Carol Service.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Schubert in B flat; 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B; 4.30.7 Mass. ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W&: !! Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian. WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11

MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths. WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): (I MP with Children's Nativity Play: 6.30 Christmas Story Musical. ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran). resham St, EC2: II Ch Euch, Rev Dr H Hoffmann; 7 Ch Vespers. ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT,

ECI: 9 HC; II Ch Euch. The Rector; 5.30 E. ST BRIDE'S, EC4: II Ch M & Euch; 6.30 Ch E. Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols'.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev D Mackenzie: 3 RAF Benevolen Fund Carol Service. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND, SWI: 11 Rev D P Bush: 0.30 Rev J H

McIndoe. ST ETHELDREDA'S, ECI: II Sung Mass, Mariazellermesse (Haydn). ST GEORGE'S. WI: 8.30 HC; II S Euch. Missa Brevis (Viadana). ST JAMES'S. W2: 10.30 S Euch. Missa Tempore (Haydn); 6 Ch E. ST JAMES'S, WI: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch. Rev

S Cathie; 5.45 EP. ST JOHN'S, EI5: It Family Service, Them & Variations (Andriessen); 6.30 HC, Rev D

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC: 10,30 S Euch, Ave Maria (Parsons): 6.30 E. ST MARK'S, NWI: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; II S Euch, Short Service (Batten) ST MARGARET'S, SWI: II S Euch, Missa Bell' Amfitrit altera (Lass ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors Service: 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES. ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, WS: 8

HC; 9.30 Euch; II.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E. Fr M Fuller. ST MARY'S. SWI: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM: 6 Carol Service & Solemn Benediction: 7 LM. ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 8 HC: 10.30 Euch, Mass for 5 voices (Byrd): 6 EP. ST MARYLEBONE, NWI: 8 HC: II Ch Euch. Rev T Clark.

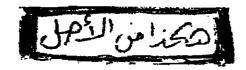
ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC: 11 Sol Euch. Rev W Gulliford. ST PETER'S, SWI; 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; II S Euch, Fr A R Chidwick.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: II M & Sermon, Short Service (Gibbonsi CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30

HC: II.IS Carol Service. Rev P Hunt. GROSVENOR CHAPEL South Audiey St. WI: II S Euch. QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY. WC2-II M, Stanford in B flat; 12:30 HC.

QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC: 10.45 M & Sermon; 11.45 S Euch: 5.15 E. THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC; II. IS Carol Service; 3 Children's Carol GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Bar-

racks, SWI: 11 Lessons & Carols: 12 HC: 0 Carols. Band of the Coldstream Guards ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL SEIO: II S Euch, Stanford in F, Ven S



#### **WEEKEND ACTIVITIES** AND COURSES

### Sign up for arabesque adventures



Learn line dancing in South Wirral next weekend

DECEMBER 19-21 Paintball Shooting and Adventure Games: Quad Bike Racing, Pigeon Shooting. At Kingsland, Herefordshire, with Acorn Activities (01432 830083). Price £130,

Winter Walking: Circle Dances. At the Wedgwood Memorial College. Burlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782 372105). Price £68. inclusive.

Venering Oil Painting for Beginners. At the West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). Prices £150 residential, £97 non-

Brush Up Your Oil Painting Techniques: Calligraphy. At the Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancs (0)772 784661). Price £75, inclusive of instruction and full-board.

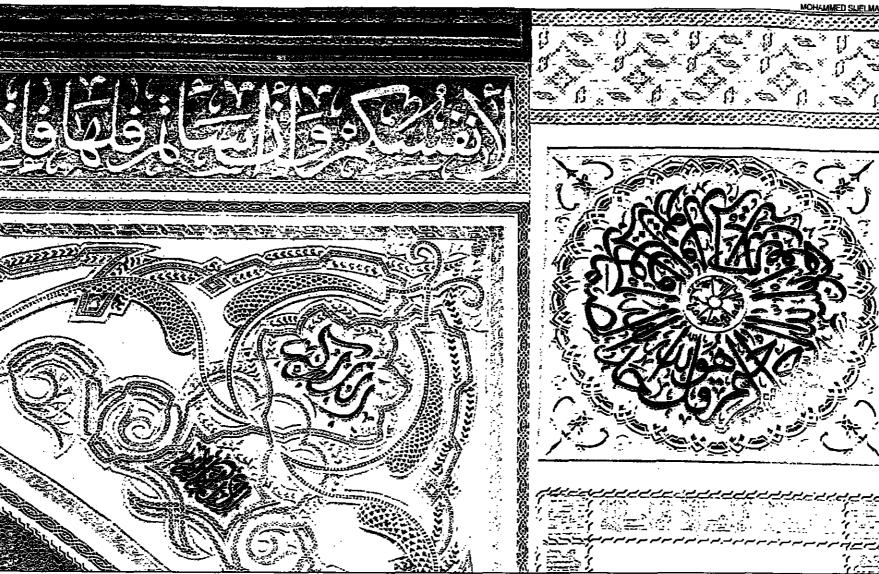
Christmas Feast Weekend. Stay in the only thatched youth hostel in Britain and take part in walks. sledging and a festive meal. Out-back UK, Badby, Northants (01327 704115). Price £45 inclusive.

Line Dancing. Learn all the steps to a range of Western dances. At the Burton Manor College, South Wirral (0151-336 5172). Price £98, inclusive.

Popular Music in Theatre and Film: Painting Birds and Animals: There's a Painting in that Landscape. Three art courses at the Pendrell Hall College, Staffordshire (01902 434112). Price from ES6.40 residential, E60.50 nonresidential.

A Practical Opera Weekend on Eugene Onegin. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Cambridge (01954 210636). Price El 17. inclusive.

Alfred the Great, Times of Feast, Times of Famine. At the University of Manchester (0161-275 3275).



Inside the mosque of Hassan II in Casablanca, Morocco. Make a resolution to study the art and architecture of the Islamic world at the University of Cambridge in the new year

CHRISTMAS BREAKS Skiing Workshops and Practice. Get ready for the ski-slopes in January with a day at the Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Southampton (01703 892077). Price £45 per day, including lunch and

equipment. Fell Walking in the Lake District. With Mountain Goat and Countrywide Holidays (0161-488 7112). From Grasmere to the more remote fells. Prices from £133 per head, accommodation and transport

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Staffordshire with The Old Furnace Walking Holidays of Greendale (01538 70331). Two-day breaks from E75, three days from £110, five days including Christmas from

Explore the Smuggler's Paths of Exmoor and the Lorna Doone Country. Walking breaks over Christmas at the Rising Sun Hotel, Lynmouth (01598 753223). Price £375 for three nights, including Christmas dinner.

Christmas Activity Breaks in Wales. White-water rafting, indoor go-karting, mountain biking and guided walks in the Elan and Wye valleys and the Radnor hills with

Acorn Activities (01432 830083) at Llangollen and Llandrindod Wells. Prices from £200 to £375 for three

nights. The William the Conqueror Walk. Clear away the Christmas blues with this two to three-day, 31mile walk in Sussex from Pevensey to Rye via Battle, following the path of William the Conqueror in 1066. A leaflet with a list of hotels and guest houses near the path is available free from Tourist Information Centres in Battle (01424 773721) and Rye (01797 22669b). National Trust Christmas Walks. The National Trust is again offer-ing a programme of guided Christmas walks from more than 50 of its properties in all parts of the country. Some walks are free, others range from £2 to £4.50, including refreshments. Details from local NT Offices or from the NT office in London (0171-222 9251). Winter Birdwatching. On Strangford Lough, Co Down, Accommodation in National Trust properties on the Castle Ward estate costs from £166 in January to £365 over Christmas and New Year. Full details from the National Trust Cottage bookings (01225 791199). Quad Biking, Tank Driving.

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ough, Cambs (01780 782223). Prices from EHO for two nights, activities by arrangement.

Fitness Break at Nutfield Priory. Redhill Surrey (01737 822066). Detoxing, gymnasium, swimming pool, sauna and steam room, exercise and aerobic studio. Prices, half-board, from £60 a night.

throughout January. Weish Border Breaks. Patchwork and rugmaking, birdwatching, china mending, drawing, painting and gardening skills. Just a few of the activities available on the Welsh Marches with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083).

Organic Gardening, Herb Gardens, Food as Medicine, Art and Medieval History, Aromatherapy. Hereford and Gloucestershire Churches Walking in the Wye Valley. A selection of the courses available at Courtfield Manor. Goodrich, Herefordshire (01594 861435). Prices from £85 to £100. Egyptology. A two-day course on the wonders of ancient Egypt at the

Burton Manor College, South Wirral (0151-336 5172). Price £98 inclusive. The Paston Letters: Writers' Ven-

ice. The Art and Architecture of the Islamic World. At the University of Cambridge. Madingley Hall, Cambridge (01954 210636) from January 2-4. Price per course Birds in Winter, Looking and

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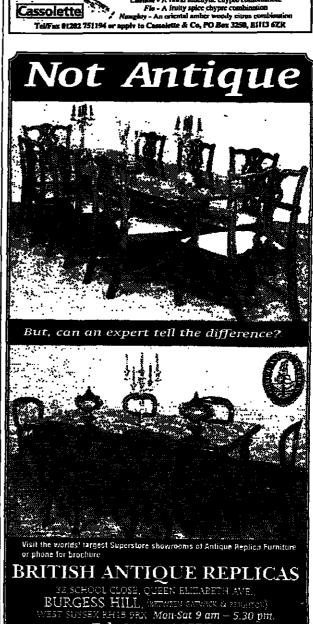
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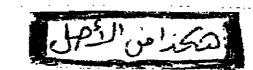
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### It was Christmas Eve in Darjeeling



Some old Rai traditions live on in the former hill station.

says Stephen McClarence

he bad news was that Santa was out of town. The receptionists told the waiters, the waiters told the housemaids and they all shook their heads. A tradition was being broken - and the Windamere Hotel, up its own little Memory Lane in Darjeeling, is a great place for traditions.

For the past 30 Christmases Teddy Young, the town's last British tea planter, had played Santa. Each Christmas night, he downed a couple of G&Ts. stuck cotton wool whiskers around his chin and dispensed festive cheer to hotel guests. But not this year. On leave. No one knew where,

Teddy Young is a genial bachelor in his sixties. His chums went back 40 years ago to Home Counties lives without servants. He stayed on, and from his bungalow on the Tum Sung Tea Estate he has watched Darjeeling gradually shrug off the air of a fading British hill station, a Himalavan rest home for the Raj.

Indian traders have swarmed up from the plains, full of business acumen, and swept away the British cobwebs. Hardly anyone remembers the days when Mr Wrangham-Hardy and Mr Dampier-Child were secretaries of the Planters' Club and took snifters under pig-stick-

Hardly anyone - except Mrs Tenduf-la, with her long Tibetan dress and her shrewdly twinkling Tibetan eyes. Now 92, she has run the Windamere since the 1920s and has preserved it in aspic. In a world of en suite bathrooms and mini-bars, it is studiously, almost self-consciously, quaint. Built as a Victorian boarding house called Ada Villa, it suggests a hunting lodge in the Scottish Highlands. Coal fires are made up at sunset and the

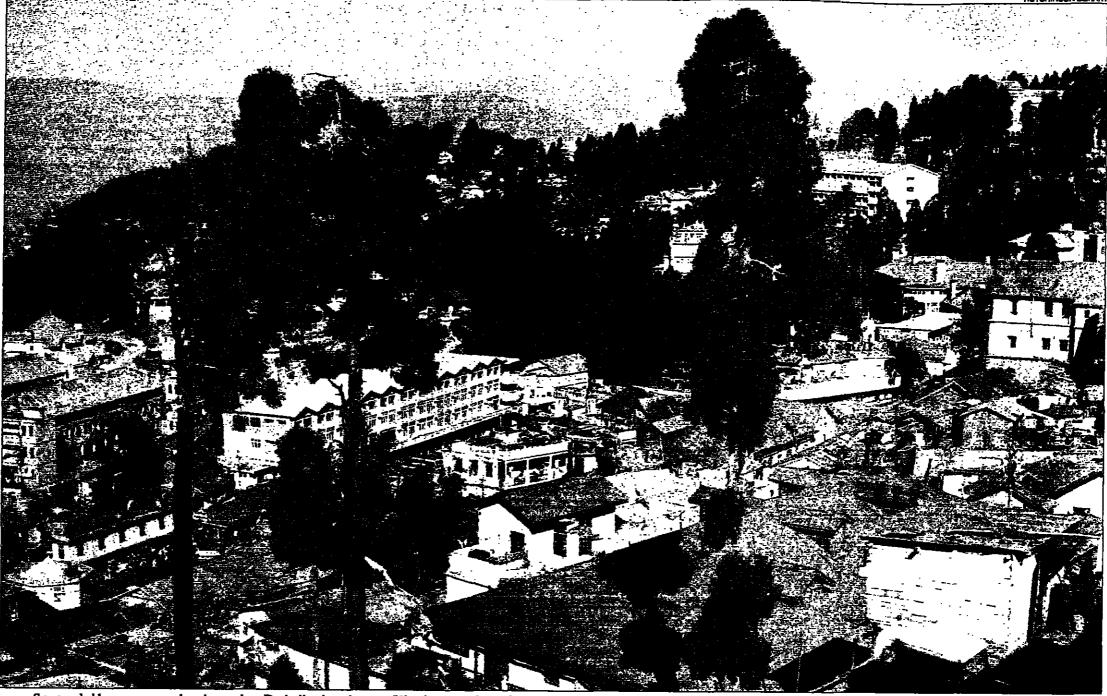
flames flicker on the ceiling. There are clanking pullchain toilets, hot-water bottles, no telephones, certainly no televisions and 40-watt light. bulbs that occasionally fade to a dim but atmospheric glow. Only the monkeys scurrying over the roof and the chiming Tibetan prayer wheels from the top of the hill detract from the tartan atmosphere.

Towards teatime in Daisy's Music Room, Miss Chandryka, a pianist trained at the Royal College of Music. plays Love's Old Sweet Song and golden moments from The Bohemian Girl. She looks fondly back to London in the 1950s. The buses - are they still red? Oh, what happy days with the new young Queen! "But time stands still here, don't you think?"

h, very much so. A gong sounds and candlelit dinner is served by waiters in cummerbunds and turbans split pea soup, perhaps, followed by clove-scented ham with candid (sic) carrots, followed by something Nepali, which we really ought to try. followed by treacle sponge and a good night's sleep.

Previous guests have in-cluded the royal families of Sikkim and Bhutan, Sir Edmund Hillary (Darjeeling is pretty handy for Everest). sundry rajahs, various viceroys and, back in the 1940s. when the memsahibs brought their fox stoles and their nannies, one Mr J Keeble. who grins out of the photo albums with a Terry-Thomas mousiache and an amusing

party hat. On the eve of Christmas Eve last year, Mrs Tenduf-la says the hotel's guests will include a Russian consul, some French



Surrounded by snow-covered peaks, modern Darjeeling is no longer a Himalayan

diplomats, the Brittains from Sussex who are meeting their son and daughter-in-law from Bangladesh, the Miedemas they are Americans - and Mr and Mrs Gates from Australia, who have been coming for six years.

Oh, and Mr McIntosh, also Australian, coming here for 16 years ("Just can't keep away." he says later). And Teddy Young? Do we have a Santa? Not as yet, says Mrs Tendufla. And smiles serenely. Few guests have vet arrived at the hotel, with its 10ft Christmas tree, its cotton wool scattered over bushes to simulate snow, and its balloons

that deflate during the chilly nights. So to fill the short breaks between hotel meals, we walk around Chowrasta, the town where souare children play with tops and hoops. And we browse through the 1907 Darjeeling District Gazetteer in

the Oxford Book Store (a gripping section on intestinal worms"). From here, the modern town spills down the hillside - busy. down-ar-heel and, given even a hint of rain, a mere muddy

relic of great days. We take tea with Mr Ranen Datta, secretary of the Darjeeling Planters' Association. His office is in a corner of the Planters' Club, its library full of mould, mildew and first edition John Buchans and A.J. Cronins, its dining room dominated by a snarling bear's head reputedly presented by Krushchev.

Mr Datta, with a quiet voice unusual in a Bengali, says his association "organises everything to do with tea - if not

from A to Z at least from A to T". He says he regularly deals with Britishers trying to trace their grandparents' estates and is guarded about Darjeeling today. "My locus standi on this is somewhat uncertain," he says and clamps his

pipe between his teeth. We walk back to the Windamere around The Mall, with its spectacular views over Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain. With five snowy peaks floating like a mirage over the mist. Kanchenjunga is an inspiring sight — if you can see it behind the pale blue haze that can

Indian

traders

have swept

away the

British

cobwebs

shroud it for months. dusk on Christmas Eve, the sky changes from blue to pale pink. The moon has been out since lunchtime. Now the clouds merge in the smoke tiny white-roofed houses scattered like confetti down the hillsides. Dogs hark, ponies bells

ring and, in the deepening darkness, it is hard to tell where the stars end and the lights of the houses begin. Back at the Windamere, the other guests have suddenly arrived, along with The Enter-

tainers - Fenton Gray and

Charles Miller, tenor and piano, specially flown in from Britain to croon Noël Coward and Cole Porter to order. Mr Rao, the hotel catering manager, is back from Calcutta with the turkeys. They were packed in ice on the train, he says, and goes off to order vegetables from the market. After dinner, a party of Nepali schoolchildren sing Silent Night on the hotel terrace.

On Christmas morning, the



Locals keep up to date with events at a busy newsstand



maids deliver bright red stockings to every guest and, because we are being more English than the English, most of us go off to church. St Andrew's, a Gloucestershire church recreated in India, is fearfully cold and full of flaking yellow distemper.

ts visitors' book goe back to 1926, when English gals came to see relatives in hungalows called Marigold Villa, Eden Chine and The Dingle. We sing We Three Kings like a dirge, without organ or piano accompaniment, and eat mince pies outside where it is warmer. Next door, the Gymkhana Club, famous during British days, is deserted. But a notice promises "New Year's Eve will be celebrated with the usual fervour and gaiety". We have missed the Darjeeling body-building competition.

Early evening fireworks, bonfire, dinner, Sikh pipers in full tartan to pipe in the plum pudding, and killer punch. After two or three glasses, the Brittains and the Miedemas discover they are fellow mem-bers of BACSA, the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia. A Good Cemeteries Tour of Darjeeling is arranged for Boxing Day.

Miss Chandryka plays Keep the Home Fires Burning, the Brits sing Land of Hope and Glory and we half-expect the Christmas message over the wireless — probably from George V. Suddenly, a bell rings and a loud "Ho ho ho" echoes across the hotel. Fortified by punch, Mr Gates from Australia has stuck on the cotton-wool whiskers.

When Teddy Young gets back, he will never hear the

Tourney with us along the most romantic section of the Danube from medieval Passau in Bavaria to the twin cities of Buda & Pest in Hungary. It's a river voyage through idyllic rolling landscapes of pastures and vines, past centuries old villages, towns and imperial cities which have wirnessed

the fascinating and turbulent history of Middle Europe. Within the course of one week we will travel from Germany. through Austria and Slovakia to Hungary and accomplish a comprehensive look at an area of infinite cultural riches. Baroque churches, cathedrals and abbeys will be seen in all their splendour often contrasting with their naturally beautiful rustic surroundings. Old quarters of winding lanes and alleys lined by medieval houses contrast starkly with the best or, depending on your view, the worst of modern architecture in the city centres

Added to this visual feast are the delights of the great museums and gallenes of Vienna and Budapest which, together with their undisputed renown as centres for some of the world's finest music, make such a cruise an ideal trip for those who wish to absorb themselves in a passage through history and the arts.

All this is done without having to change your hotel once or endure long and tiring coach journeys. The MS Rousse will be our base for the 7 nights, taking us through borders

#### **DARJEELING FACT FILE**



Eaglogra and then hire a taxi (about £12, negotiable) for the 50-mile onward journey.

Air India (01753 684828) flies four times a week from Heathrow to Calcutta via Delhi. Return fares available through Trailfinders (017) 938 3366) cost from £462 from early January. KLM (0990 750900) flies weekly from many UK airports via Amsterdam: fares through Trailfinders from E429 from January 6. An Indian Airlines return flight from Calcutta to Bagdogra costs E86; it is most easily booked through

The Danube

Traillinders (0171-938 3366).

The Windamere Hotel

By rail, there are direct services rom Delhi and Calcutta to New Jalpaiguri, with taxis on to Darjeeling at around £12. The narrow gauge toy train, which wheezes up from the plains to the town centre, has

■ The Windamere Hotel (tel (X)9) 354 54041: fax 0091 354 54211 or 54043) has single rooms from US\$92 (E59) and double rooms from \$150 (£96), meals and taxes included. The hotel is fully booked this Christmas. British passport holders need a from the Indian High Commission (0171-836 8484). Best time to visit: October to May. Nights can be very cold. No compulsory inoculations, i protection against cholera and malaria recommended. Reading: Rough Guide to India Companion (Headline, £14,99).

not been operating this season, but

uncomfortable ten-hour journey

■ Government of India Tourist Office: 7 Cork Street, London WIX 2LN (0171-437 3677).



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#### HOTELS: A STYLE GUIDE



The penthouse suite at the SoHo Grand in New York

breeze of change is tugging at the frowsy net curtains of London's hotels, blowing through their lobbies and sweeping away the stuffy formality for which some have long been known.

"Lobby culture" has blown over from New York, where a handful of high-profile establishments have created theatrical meeting places in their public spaces - and watched profits climb.

This stylish approach is underpinned by hard economic reality. Quite simply, London does not have enough hotel beds, and is unlikely ever to get enough new ones unless investors can be persuaded that hotels will give them as good a return on their money as offices.

The London Tourist Board estimates that the capital needs at least 10,000 extra hotel beds by 2000, to meet the needs of rising numbers of tourists. On paper it has them, with 1,880 rooms recently opened, 3,070 under construction and another 6.938 granted planning permission. But two years to realise more than 8,000 rooms from scratch is, at best,

Sir John Egan, chairman of the London Tourist Board, is urgently

### Star-spangled style and service

not just between now and 2000 that is at issue. We must plan for the year 2020, and we need 20,000 more rooms than we have now," he says.

But where will they come from? The success of London's individually-owned, smallish, designer hotels could provide the answer. Currently reporting an average room occupancy of 85 per cent, the Metropolitan on Park Lane, owned by Singaporean businesswoman Christina Ong, continues to draw the chic set to its clubby bar and Nobu restaurant, as does its more upmarket sister hotel. the Halkin. Anouska Hempel's Blakes hotel and restaurant are as popular now as in their Eighties heyday, and her love it-or-loathe it Far Eastern folly, the Hempel, is making its own waves.

Although concepts differ wildly, these hotels owe a debt of gratitude to the US hotelier Ian Schrager. Like his New York successes the Royalton, the Paramount and Morgans, they have turned lobbies into by Victoria Smith

designer meeting places, with striking open spaces and bedrooms to match, plus bars and restaurants that are the talk of the town.

In London, as in Manhattan, staff are young, good-looking, and wear designer uniforms — Donna Karan for the Metropolitan, Giorgio Armani for the Halkin in Belgravia. And increasingly, London hotels are following Schrager's lead, selecting staff for looks, style and chutzpah.

But the future is not guaranteed. Schrager's own expansion into London is meeting setbacks. A £150million venture with property giant Burford once boasted four central sites, but two have lost the battle for square footage to office space. The old Post Office on the edge of Trafalgar Square has been rented to an advertising agency and Schrager himself rejected an office block in St Martin's Place.

His third and largest site,

Grade II listed Sandersons paint factory near Oxford Circus, is caught in a planning permission wrangle with English Heritage, delaying plans to convert it into a 103-room hotel. The site, bought at £19 a square foot, is now worth £30 a square foot, and has attracted interest from companies such as National Magazine, looking to expand from its Broadwick Street base.

nly the development of the former Lumière cinema in St Martin's Lane seems certain to go ahead on time, with construction scheduled to start next spring. The shrinking of Schrager's project has prompted observers in the industry to question whether he'll stay with Burford but its chief executive, John Anderson, insists the conversions will go ahead. So what will the London version

look like? Anderson compares the Sandersons project to New York's majestic Royalton: the Lumière building to the more whimsical

Paramount. Both owe their high camp and cutting edge styles to French designer Philippe Starck. who has been drafted in to work on the London hotels.

He will have to compromise on the former paint factory. Its listed features include an enormous 1970s stained glass window, an external mosaic that owes more to community outreach work than classical Greece, and a poor excuse for a Japanese garden. English Heritage has decreed that all must stay, so Schrager and Starck will incorporate the stained glass into a vast lobby every bit as theatrical as its New York cousins. The mosaic and garden will form part of a canteenstyle bar and restaurant, encased in glass, and fronting the street.

At the Lumière site in St Martin's Lane, project architect Peter Korkolis has already drawn up plans. As with Sandersons, there will be a large, lively atrium to fit in with the Schrager/Starck concept of Continued on page 21

#### **NEW YORK**

In America's style capital, hotel lobby culture makes a star of every guest, and even the staff wear designer labels

THE SOHO GRAND 310 West Broadway (001 212 965 3000, fax 965 3141). E-mail reservations at: sohoselect@sohogrand.com. IN A city where hotels compete fiercely for prime locations, the SoHo Grand may

have won the battle. Overlooking bohemian West Broadway, this tribute to "haute minimalism" reflects the personality of its arty neighbourhood with an entrance lobby that looks like a gallery and has the decor to match.

The central staircase is a modern twist on a SoHo fire escape and the bases of the oversized lamps are reminiscent of easel stands.

Rooms here are monochrome and semi-institutional, but the lobby is alive with stylish wheelers and dealers. It is not, however, the best place for children - the chic tables and chairs are a bit too cutting-edge for little ones, who are prone to bumping their heads

There are 367 rooms; winter rates \$279-\$1,000 (E175-E625). Special features: fitness centre, reasonable bar prices.

**MORGANS** 237 Madison Avenue (001 212 686 0300, fax 779 8352). IAN SCHRAGER'S first Manhattan success has up-





Morgans: check out its handsome interior

dated its 1980s look and has reopened its fêted Asia de Cuba restaurant.

Andrée Puttman, the designer, has redefined the hotel's concept of "home, only better" and given this hand-some interior a feminine feel.

The wardrobes are huge, the sofas convert into beds for the children, and there is a fatfree mini-bar containing calorie-counted food for healthconscious guests. Functional shades of taupe and oatmeal highlight Morgans' businesslike nature. There is a meeting room and faxes or secretarial service — for a fee.

Busy parents will benefit from the creche, babysitting service and doctor. No buzzing lobby life here, but privacy and stylish comfort.

There are 113 rooms, 30 suites: rates \$265-\$415 (£165-E260): special rate for January

THE MARK 25 East 77th Street (001 212 744 4300, fax 744 2749). A FAVOURITE with New York society -- Madonna

played Truth or Dare here this mid-town success story hits the mark for discreet elegance.

The vast, practical rooms are stylish and the walls are



stars and high society

adorned with Piranesi prints. The amenities and room service are among the best in town, and there is a free shuttle service to Wall Street. Unfortunately, the Mark's

Italian influences extend to the front desk, where Latin temperaments run high, giving a poor first impression. So, too, does the lack of a business

There are 120 rooms plus 60 suites; rates \$380-\$875 (£237-E550). Special features: fitness centre, discount vouchers for Bloomingdale's.

THE ROYALTON 44 West 44th Street (001 212 869 4400. fax 575 0012). THE Schrager/Starck concept of hotel as theatre gets a standing ovation here, with actors, media moguls and wannabes peopling the Royal-

ton stage.
This is certainly not a place for the self-conscious. The vast lobby is designed to thrust you firmly into the spotlight - so you had better look as if you can afford it.

A 4.000 square foot suite



with unparalleled views over Times Square - site of overthe-top celebrations every New Year's Eve - costs \$3,000 (£1,875) a night. Even the standard rooms have opulent

details, including candles, fresh orchids and mirrored The Royalton's famous 44 restaurant is nicknamed the Condé Nast Canteen, which gives you some idea of the kind of people you will be

dining with. There are 205 rooms: winter rates, \$295-\$395 (E185-E246), discounts in late December. Special features: conference calling facilities, modem/fax hook-ups. working fireplaces and exercise bikes in 40

rooms, fitness suite, personal

THE PARAMOUNT 235 West 46th Street (00) 212 764 5500, fax 354 5237). THE MOMENT you enter the

Paramount, you know that you have arrived. Leaving the blare and glare of Times Square outside, you enter a cavern of cool, designer chic, where the Beautiful People make movie deals and where roses sprout from the walls. Schrager's hippest

Manhattan hotel gives free rein to Philippe Starck's whimsical designs, stopping just short of parody. Purists may wince at the intricately engraved urinals

and gigantic Vermeer prints trainer, massage therapists. transformed into headboards,

but the trendy young things love it, not least for its affordable prices. The rooms, though small, are crammed with style. Not so the business centre, a fusion of strip-lights and stained carpets that has all the

charm of a council office. There are 600 rooms induding 12 suites: \$155-\$185 (£97-£115) until end of January. \$205-\$325 (£128-£203) February onwards. Special features: gourmet takeaway, children's playroom, fitness centre.

 All New York hotel rates are subject to an additional room tax of 13.25 per cent, plus between \$2 and \$8 a day.



You may feel you're being watched at the Paramount

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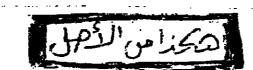
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#### HOTELS: A STYLE GUIDE

### set to shake up the old guard

Continued from page 20 lobby culture. Its design features remain a secret, but there will be a centrepiece to rival the Paramount's gold-leaf tiling wall, and a bar and cafe to echo its Whiskey Bar and gourmet deli. Korkolis is less secretive about the rooms. "Guests will be able to alter the mood of their rooms by changing the lighting effect, from yellow to red to blue."

Rooms on the first floor will have their own mini-courtyards, and there are plans for a penthouse with a view of Trafalgar Square.

Like the Paramount, the cheapest of Ian Schrager's New York hotels. the room rates will range from £120 to £200, considerably less than the grander-scale Sandersons project and the capital's other five-star designer hotels.

With the Schrager hotels not due for completion before the turn of the century, hoteliers are casting an eye over the short-term competition.

Three major projects are well under way: Marriott's County Hall

quarters of the GLC on the south bank of the Thames, the old Pearl Assurance Building in Holborn, and Terence Conran's first London hotel venture, the Great Eastern at Liverpool Street Station

ut it is the trend for the Smaller "boutique" hotels, such as Schrager's, that threatens the pre-eminence of Christina Ong and Anouska Hempel. Mrs. Ong is currently working on her third London hotel, Canary Riverside, on the Isle of Dogs, due for completion in January 1999. But the hotel name on everyone's lips next spring is likely to be One Aldwych, due to open in April.

Owner Gordon Campbell-Grey has recently returned from New York, where he bought a contemporary art collection for his five-star creation. He acknowledges the success of modern minimalist hotels like the Metropolitan and Hempel, but is unafraid of taking them on.

design that's not cold, sharp-edged and industrial," he says. Twe been around the world staying in five-star hotels, and the dripping deluxeness upset me. There's an awful lot of superfluous luxury, but the secret of great hotel is service."

Unlike the Metropolitan and Schrager's US hotels, his staff will come from a training and development department, and not the designer boutiques. "You can't staff a whole hotel with beautiful people. You need experience," he says.

Campbell-Grey is proud of the fact that One Aldwych is financed by British cash, and is confident of its location, in the heart of theatreland. He boasts that its rates, starting at E175 a night, undercut old-timers such as the Savoy and the Dorches-ter. But he and the current live-star glories face a further challenge. The successful Malmaison hotel chain, whose low prices and modern features have won awards in Glasgow and Edinburgh, is moving south. A

Metro

named after the home of Napoleon Bonaparte near Versailles) opened in Newcastic last month, and two more are under construction, in Manchester and Leeds.

Now Arcadian International, which owns the Malmaison chain, is targeting the capital, with a prime site in the former Norway House in Trafalgar Square, due to upen in

almaison, the creation of Glaswegian hotelier Ken McCulloch, claims to combine low prices with a lively atmosphere. Room rates in northern cities are between £95 and £230, the design by McCulloch's partner. Amanda Rosa, is bold and modern and every guest is provided with CDs on sale at half-price when checking out.

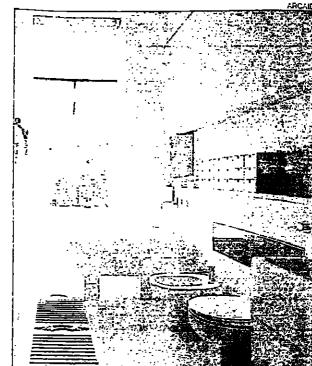
The hotels make savings by replacing 24-hour room service with an allnight café, and are conventional with food: pizzas and pasta, with a French brasserie for lunch and dinner.

Nigel Massey, spokesman for the Malmaisons the Halkin and the Metropolitan, compares them to department stores. "The Halkin and the Met are Aspreys and the Conran Shop. Malmaison is Marks & Spencer with a twist," he says,

Like the Hempel with its 1-Thai eaterie and the Metropolitan with Nobu. Malmaison hopes to appeal to Londoners looking for an alternative to the restaurant scene.

And it is not alone. The Meridien on Piccadilly has already turned over its Oak Room to the chef Marco Pierre White and is doing a roaring trade. Even statelier, corporate hotels such as the Landmark in Marylebone have updated their cho lesterol-rich menus to satisfy today's demand for a Mediterranean-Oriental fusion of flavours.

But despite the welter of building projects and new ideas, there is still no guarantee that London will have enough hotel beds by 2000 especially if the Millenium Dome proves, as expected, a massive draw for visitors. So if you want to be in the capital to see in the new millennium, you would be best advised to book your hotel room well in advance



Plenty of white space is the theme at The Hempel

#### LONDON

#### Minimalist chic is the hallmark of the Capital's most fashionable hotels



Oriental opulence: a bedroom at the Halkin

DO LUXURIES such as a bedside air-conditioning control unit and a computerised Do not Disturb sign make up for a dirty duvet cover? This was the only black mark I gave to an otherwise spotless hotel, tucked away amid the

rooftops of Belgravia. Christina Ong's creation combines discreet opulence with practicality. The rooms are on five themed floors water, air, fire, earth and sky - and reflect each of those elements in their use of wood. glass and stone.

In the hotel's serene Michelin-starred restaurant, exquisite Milanese cooking is served without fuss. I had caviar and cold spaghetti surprisingly successful - and an excellent main course of pan-fried calves liver with red onion marmalade.



Celebrity magnet: Blakes

There are 30 rooms and 11

suites; doubles from £240. suites from £375. Special features: private dining suite, financial services

room, fax/modern lines, telephone super-user rate.

THE METROPOLITAN Old Park Lane. 0171-447 1000. fax 447 1100

THE HALKIN's younger. trendier sister, the Metropolitan's minimalist chic makes your eyes water. Even the

THE HALKIN wood is stripped of varnish, 5 Halkin Street, 0171-333 1000, and the bare expanse of blindsleep in has all the charm of a

> of humour. When a brick fell on to the bed of a famous film producer, the staff asked him to put it back, then filled the room with flowers.

Met. A table at its Japanese restaurant, Nobu, requires strategic advance booking, and the exclusive Met Bar has a private guest list of 2,000. The night I went, the cast of cult TV show This Life had just

There are 137 rooms and 17 suites, one penthouse with Japanese rock garden and views over Hyde Park: singles from £175, doubles £225; from January I prices rise to start at E195/£245; penthouse £1,300-£1,500.

club, massage therapy, jogging map of Hyde Park, shopping inneraries, secretarial services, mobile phones and printers on request.

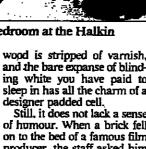
171-370 6701, fax 373 0442 BLAKES likes to show off. From its opulent four-poster beds heaped with cushions to the ostentatious initial 'B' embossed on the shower stalls. this diminutive hotel is proud of itself. It has every reason to be, attracting a steady flow of equally showy customers who, like the decor, owe more to Eighties braggadocio than

their wedding last April. It's fun, though, Ownerdesigner Anouska Hempel's jumble of Eastern influences reflects the riches of the Raj and the designer-sleaze of an

vision celebrities flock to the been made members.

Special features: health

BLAKES



Movie moguls and tele-

institution.

THE HEMPEL London W2 3EA.

33 Roland Gardens,

Nineties subtlety. Regulars include Robert de Niro, Jean Paul Gaultier and Francis Ford Coppola, whose own Californian red is on the wine list for £55. Liam Gallagher and his wife, actress Patsy Kensit spent their honeymoon here, following

emperor's opium den. The



ing nine suites: singles £130, doubles from £155-£300, suites £475-995 (these prices valid until March 1998). Special features: private courtyard. conference facilities, fax lines. oxygen cannisters in the mini-

31-35 Craven Hill Gardens 0171-298 9000. fax 402 4666. e-mail: the-hempel@easynet.

ZEN AND the art of hotel design converge in this Temple to Cool, also owned by Anouska Hempel. The Eastern influence is back, but stripped of its colour and heat, it offers soaring white spaces. with shadows for contrast. projection of Rita Hayworth looks down on a vast, stark lobby with floating

fireplaces and sunken Japa-Room features are quirky to the point of pretension: there are airline-style toilets surrounded by orchids; and you sleep on a futon on a mezza-

nine floor suspended above the hotel room. Even Craven Hill Gardens has been unofficially renamed Hempel Garden Square after the woman who redesigned it. If you are looking for home comforts, stay away. But the sensation-seekers love it, not least for the experimental 1-

Thai restaurant, where the

menu's unusual mix of Italian



The lobby of the Metropolitan typifies the hotel's sparse, minimalist approach

landmark.btinternet.com.uk

new-look five-star hotels, the

Victorian fripperies of the

Landmark still attract a fair

share of rock stars and

Jackson and Celine Dion

It is a favourite of Michael

and Thai food was recently slated by some critics as overly

There are 36 rooms, six suites and six serviced apartments: doubles from £220; deluxe suite £775.

Special features: fax in every room, ISDN and modern lines, full video-conferencing facilities, private rooms and garden, fitness centre, baby-sitting service, 24-hour lemongrass tea and sake.

THE LANDMARK 222 Marylebone Road. London NWI 6JQ. 0171-631 8000, fax 631 8033. e-mail: reservations@

Oasis star Noel Gallagher and wife Meg considered holding their wedding reception in its ornate rooms. Despite initial appearances, including the eight-storey Winter Gardens, resplendent with palm trees and tinkling

models

rooms come in tones of beige and bland, with individual faxes and ISDN lines. The Landmark is keen to cash in on the trend for "lobby culture", encouraging drop-in custom to its Cellars bar and formal dining room, with its impressive menu courtesy of

piano music, the hotel has a

corporate feel. Its pricey bed-

new chef Andrew McLeish. There are 297 rooms and one presidential suite. Between December 19 and January II 1998 (excluding December 31), doubles cost from \$149 for bed and full English breakfast, plus a free taxi to Oxford or Bond Street to go

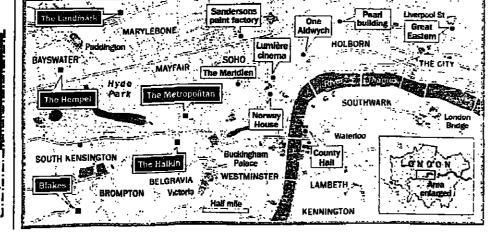
shopping. At other times, doubles cost from £245 a night on weekdays and from EISO a night at weekends. The presidential

A WORLD apart from the suite costs £1.083. Special features: health suite with indoor pool, florist. beauty salon, doctor and dentist on call, picnic baskets on request in summer.

> All London hotel prices given exclude VAT at 1712 per



The Landmark's Victorian, palm-treed lobby



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#### AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE



#### Life among the Lycians

THE mysteries of life among the Lycians will be revealed next year to visitors to the Kas peninsula in Turkey. Dr Clifton Stockdale of Durham University, a specialist on ancient civilisation, will give talks on Lycian culture to holidaymakers staying at the Savile Residence, a country house hotel, between June 13 and September 12.

Relatively little is known of the Lycians, believed to have originated in Crete, who left chunky stone sarcophagi and elaborately decorated rock tombs around the shores and hillsides of Kas.

The Savile Residence, which is close to the self-catering Club Savile, provides an inclusive Mediterranean breakfast (eggs. olives. honey, fruit, frankfurters and salamis) in the a la carte restaurant. Rooms have hi-fi systems. TV and CD players. There is no sandy

beach - swimming is from bathing platforms or in the freshwater pool. The resort has its own gym. During July and August, a Turkish cookery specialist will also give weekly cookery demonstrations. The tours and talks are included in the price of £479-£599 a week. £599-£749 for two weeks. These prices include flights. More information from Savile Row Tours and Travel (017) 625 3001).

**BATH SPA** is something of a misnomer these days. little more than a lyrical name for the railway station. The Roman baths are a splendid piece of steaming history, but there are no spa facilities beyond a glass of sulphurous water in the Pump Room. All that will change with the £13.5 million . development of a spa complex in the town starting next spring, and due for completion in 2000. Two semi-derelict 18th-century spa buildings, close to the Roman baths, will be renovated



#### Cycling high

modern with a capital M."

THE increasing popularity of mountain biking has encouraged Sunworld Sailing (01273 626284) to introduce its first dedicated mountain bike centre in Kitzbühel, Austria, with programmes for all abilities. Guides will lead group excursions five days a week, while route maps are provided for independent explorers. Summer biking events in the area include the national Hahnekamm Hill climb, the Grundig World Cup in August and the KitzAlp Bike

marathon in September.
A week's half-board chalet accommodation in Kitzbühel costs from £495-£568, which also includes flights, a three-day lift pass and hire of bike and equipment.

#### Cleaner air

MALAYSIA'S smog has lifted at last. Sailing through the Straits of Malacca last week I saw the clear sunny skies and bright starry nights. This is a huge relief to the Government, which is spending £2.5 billion on a new airport and £300 million on stadiums, an athlete's village and five-star hotels for next year's Commonwealth Games, to be held from September II-21 in Kuala Lumpur.

"The smog had a disastrous effect on our bookings," says Dale Garvin, manager of the Pangkor Laut resort on a formerly uninhabited island off Pangkor itself. The resort is adding isolated luxury compounds for well-heeled wannabe Crusoes — each one is an oriental-style home, with sunken outdoor bath, a chef and a butler. There are also rather too many

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COTSWOLDS

been targeted by the management. "We are spraying twice daily." reassures Mr Garvin. Cruises through the Straits of Malacca on a sailing clipper cost from 1995 a week, excluding flights, with Fred Olsen (01473 292229). A week at Pangkor Laut costs £975, room only but including flights, from Kuoni (01306 740500).

OPERA, theatrical performances and exhibitions are planned next year to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Spain's great poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca. The activities will centre on Barcelona, Madrid and Granada, the cities where he spent most of his life. Lorca was murdered in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War. In 1999 the Prado museum in

Wheelie on top of it all: hire a mountain bike in Kitzbühel, Austria, and enjoy some of the most exhilarating views in the world Madrid is preparing four exhibitions for the 400th anniversary of the birth of the painter Velazquez. Details from the Spanish National Tourist Office (0171-486 8077).

#### Time to check your seatbelt

cab and listen to the likes of Piacioo Domingo, Joan Rivers and Eartha Kitt whispering the likes of Placido sweet words in

your ear. They and other celebrities are helping the Taxi and Limousine Commission by urging all passengers, through recorded messages that play as the vehicle

More taxi tales, this time from Greece. If you are one of the many who have suffered at the hands of surly and rapacious Greek taxi drivers, mainly in Athens, you will be pleased to know that complaint forms and price lists are now displayed at airports — and, somewhat surprisingly, in the

cabs themselves. Drivers will have to attend seminars run by the Ministry of Development on behaviour, cleanliness and communications. We shall see whether they have any effect.

FORGET the Caribbean sunshine, sand and sea -the purpose of a tour of the Lesser Antilles is to focus on the history and artistic beritage of the islands and examine the contemporary political scene.

moves off, to wear seatbelts. The 14-day tour, from November 19 to December 3 next year, is offered by cultural specialist Martin Randall (0181-742 3355). It will visit Nelson's dockyard and Clarence House, built for the future king William IV in Antigua, and Dominica's rainforest and reserves where descendants of the Caribs, some of the Caribbean's original inhabitants, still live.

The island of Martinique birthplace of the Napoleon's Empress Josephine, and Barbados are also on the itinerary. Visits to private homes and meetings with prominent people are also promised. And yes, time is allowed for sunbathing. The tour costs £3,140 which includes flights, halfboard, entrance fees and an accompanying expert.

LONDON



Roman rival: Bath will have a £13.5 million spa complex by 2000

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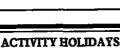
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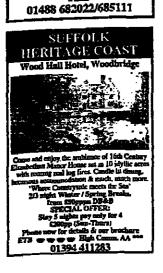
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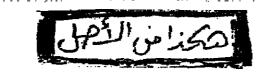
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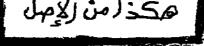




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#### SKI WEEKEND BEYOND THE BROCHURES



Light traffic Grand Targhee, a tiny resort located not far from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where the pistes are ideal for intermediate skiers during the spring months

### Skiing in the middle of nowhere



NOT a creature is stirring, not even the mouse I saw in the wood box when I went to bed last night. The silence wakes me up. It is dark, too, darker than it should be. The chalet has no electricity and little light is coming in the window.

Groggily, I manage to remember where I am: inside a somewhat primitive farmhouse in central Switzerland. I have been invited to spend Christmas in a village so small that the passing Glacier Express train stops only by special request. There are no hotels and no shops and it was an hour's hike through swirling snow to get

here last night from the railway tracks.
Out in the living room, my friend is huddled by the huge stone oven. She is staring across the room at the latticed windows. It is snowing like I have never seen snow before. It has already covered the house on three sides, there is no wind and no sky to be seen. Snowflakes are all I can see, fat and heavy, piling up over the windows as we watch. We will not be skiing today. Nobody will be going anywhere. We are snowbound in Segnes.

EVERY YEAR the brochures 734 1921) has a timetable. get bigger and tour operators. From December 16, easyJet invade the smallest of previously "secret" hideaways. Two such. Ste Foy in France and from Luton, starting at Alagna in Italy, appear for the first time this season with The Ski Company and Crystal. But dozens of small resorts remain buried beyond the brochures, inviting individuals to make their own journeys of discovery.

The Swiss communal ethos

#### SEGNES Switzerland

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.....

I means that no sooner is the oven stoked up in the living room, and the woodburning stove in the kitchen fired up to melt the frost on the than a neighbour knocks on the door. The smiling old lady next door hauls in a steaming bucket of fresh milk. There is no way anyone could make it to the... shops, a half-hour's hike away in Disentis, a medieval monastery town with 60km of prepared pistes, one of which runs right into Segnes. Its nine lifts rise to 2,900m, starting point for an easy climb up the Oberalpstock (3,328m) and a thrilling descent of almost 2,000 vertical metres down a deserted valley to Sedrun, connected by railway to Segnes and Disentis. Getting there: The Disentis tourist office (0041 81 9475822) has information

on local farmhouses and

will stop at Segnes if the

Geneva or Zurich change at Brig for the Glacier

Express to Disentis. The train

conductor is told in advance.

Switzerland Tourism (017)-

chalets. Trains from

(0990 292929) has twicedaily return flights to Ge £115. 🚁

#### **BRUNICO**

There is a lot to be said for learning to ski in a resort with long, easy pistes; tremendous sunshine and wonderful views of the surrounding Dolomites. During two winters spent learning to ski, I had a lot of time to look at the mountains while I was lying in a heap in the snow. The skiing is on the flat-topped Kronplatz, a small mountain in terms of altitude (2,275m), like most in the Dolomites, but with 85km of groomed pistes flowing out in three directions from

the top.
Skiing down to St Vigilio Enneberg, one arrives at a time-warp hamlet where the mountain dialect of Ladin prevails over the linguistic warfare between German and Italian. Historically, local folk speak German, Italian having been imposed with force after the First World War. That is why the Kronplatz is also called the Plan de Corones, and Brunico is known to its natives as Bruneck. When it comes to cooking, an accord is achieved, with the best of krapfen doughnuts and strudel going down nicely with pasta and pizza equal to the best anywhere else in Italy.

Brunico is a medieval town with castle, cathedral and a mountain river cunningly diverted into fish shops where live trout frolic in flowing water. Accommodation is so



When it is put like that, who would want to argue? A skier contemplates the point of no return in Grand Targhee

inexpensive that I was able toafford a flat in a schloss. Getting there: Brunico urist office (0039 474 555722) has its own train station, on the main line from Bolzano. The nearest airport is Innsbruck: from which direct motorway access through the Brenner pass leads to the Pustertal turnoff on to the S49, from which Brunico is about 30km. Austrian Airlines (0)71-434 7300) has return flights to Innsbruck via Vienna from Heathrow for £249.40 in February. Apartments cost £19-£38 a day, call the tourist office for information.

#### CHAMPEX LAC Switzerland

here is nothing like a high mountain lake and dense fir forests to add charm to a winter scene. Not many tourists make it up the hairpin turns to Champex Lac. But when they do, they want to stay for ever. I first went to Champex to see the dogs. Each winter there are husky dog sledge races through the wooded trails and over the frozen lake. Now I go back every winter for the skiing and the food. One of the best restaurants in the Alps is Gabriel Favre's Hotel Belvédère, an unpretentious, inex-

pensive relais de campagne. Champex's skiing is limited and intermediate, on piste, but the off-piste is awesome. The resort is on the world's most famous ski touring itinerary, the week-long Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt. Champex is included on the Four Valleys skipass issued by Verbier (about an hour away).



Champex Lac, Switzerland, famed for its skiing and food

Getting there: Champex Lac tourist office (004) 27 783 1227) has accommodation details: the three-star Hotel Belvédère (0041 27 783 1114) has half-board for £36 a night, based on two sharing. Trains from Geneva airport run to Martigny, with bus transfers to Champex. Switzerland Tourism (0171-734 1921) has timetable details; return tickets for the whole journey cost E44. EasyJet (0990 292929) has return

barbecues, which help to ameliorate any sense of isolation. Getting there: Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce (001 307 733 3316) has accommodation and resort information for Grand Targhee. Shuttles run there

(0181-750 9674) has flights

to Jackson from E442.

assessments to the commercial snow from Jackson Hole airport reporting service Ski and there is also a daily Hodine (http:// Targhee Express bus. Ški www.skihotline.com) Independence (0990 550555) has ten-night packages to Jackson Hole and Grand Targhee in February for £808 - flights are from Heathrow via Chicago and



#### ON SNOW

SKIERS booked for Christmas in the Alps have good reason to be concerned. As departure dates for Christmas draw near, no resort in the Alps is anywhere close to 100 per cent open, despite snowfalls last week. Now that most resorts have their own Web sites. however, and many display digital photographs from cameras on the peaks. getting immediate and accurate news of snow conditions is easier -and cheaper — than ever. Overviews for the

Alps are provided for France (http://www. skifrance.fr), Switzerland (http: //www.switzerlan tourism.ch) and Austria (http://austria-info.at) by the respective tourist authorities. Italy has no national site but 12 large regions in the Dolomites are covered on http://www. dolomitisuperski com. Swiss and French resorts in the Portes du Soleil circuit share http://www.portes dusoleil.com

North America is served by frequently undated sites, arranged by state or province. Among the best are http: //www.aminews.com /ski/areas/usa/ and http://www.rsn.com Skiers should note

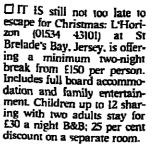
that information on all the above pages is provided by resorts themselves, not by independent never be free from the suspicion of bias. Reporters planning to be in the Alps this winter are

invited to give their own which covers 200 resorts. contact comments@skiho

DOUG SAGER

#### Joanna Hunter finds

#### last-minute departures



☐ DEEP in Snowdonia National Park, Penmaenuchaf Hall (01341 422129) is the perfect holiday retreat. From December 24 to December 27, three nights' full board accommodation - including a five-course Christmas meal and champagne brunch — is on offer from £330 per

☐ HOTEL Val de Vienne (00 335 4948 2727) near Poitiers, France, has a four-night

The price includes three nights B&B and a gala Christmas dinner, access to spa facil-ities, return flights, transfers and taxes. Departure from Heathrow on December 23.

□ WARM up with Cadogan Holidays (01703 828303) which offers eight nights' B&B at the Oudaya Hotel, Marrakesh for £499 per adult and £459 per child under 12. Departs Gatwick on Christmas Eve. Price includes return flights, transfers and

TAKE your chances on the first of the season's skiing with First Choice (0990 557755). which has seven nights' full board at the Chalet Alpenrose in Canmore, Canada, for £329. including return flights from Gatwick on December 17 or seven nights' half-board at Clubhotel Genepi in Les Deux Alpes for £259 per person.

#### (ex-Luton) £136 JEA from £64 Virgin Expr (ex-Heathrow/Gatwlo £200 Sabena £295 BA £119mw/£129we Bi £198 BA from £58 easyJet from £98 easyJet £408 BA £110mw/£122we BA £346 BA tish Airways (BA) 0345 222111 EA 0990.676676 British Midland 0345 554554 Sabena 0181-780 1444 **da 01293 596650**

Christmas break that concludes with a cross-country four-wheel drive. From December 24 to December 28, full board accommodation is £350 per person, including transport from Poitiers station. Flights not included.

☐ COSMOS (0161-480 5799) is offering an eight-day sea and coach tour of the Rhine, the Black Forest and the Tyrol for £318 per person, including six breakfasts, five dinners and Christmas lunch. Departs on December 22 from London or a ferry port, to be confirmed.

SAMPLE an Eastern European Christmas in Budapest at £299 per person with Therdeparting Manchester on De-cember 19. Ski hire and pass not included.

☐ AIRTOURS (0161-907 3891) has reduced its offer of seven nights' accommodation only at the Swiss Village in Banff. Canada, from £601 to £399 per person. Return flights from Manchester, leaving December 20. Transfers included, but not taxes, equipment or

☐ KUONI (01306 742222) is offering a week in St Lucia, and you can still be back for Christmas. Departing from Heathrow on December 16, seven nights' accommodation at the Orange Grove costs from £1,146 per person.

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### The Garden Isle of Madeira

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oin us for a 7-night sojourn on the beautiful island of Madeira departing from London Gatwick and enjoy a week of relaxation or partake in a variety of interesting optional visits to tropical gardens and lovely houses. In addition we are able, for a small supplement, to offer a hotel upgrade to the 5-star Savoy Hotel, representing an excellent saving from tariffs that might be found elsewhere. If therefore you are looking for a balmy winter's break, then this is an offer that should not be missed.

THE HOTEL MADEIRA

This modern 3-star hotel is located within a short walking distance of all the principle attractions of Old Funchal and of numerous excellent restaurants. All rooms have balcony, telephone, bathand WC, Its roof terrace has a panoramic outlook over the town. The hotel has a during room for breakfast only. On occasions, an alternative 3-star hotel will be used.

THESAVOYHOTEL

warnicviews of the mountains and sea the Savoy Hotel offers a high level of service. This hotel has 350 spacious and comfortable guest rooms all with



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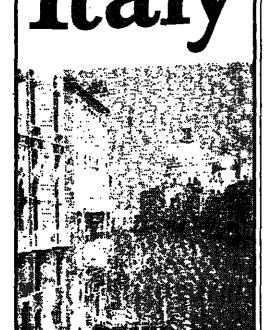
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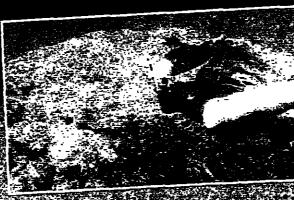
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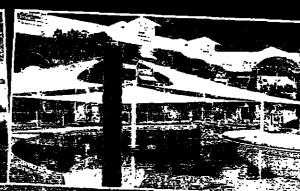
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CHANGING TIMES

# An enchanting hit and myth affair

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Luke Martin loved the

Chilote islands of Chile, but

was not so

sure about the local legends

Apple Laboration

lot of what you read about troils just isn't true," the elderly Chilote writer Oscar Martinez told me as we sat sipping tea in the cramped study of his house overlooking the corrugated-iron cathedral of Castro. "For a start, it's a myth that they wear pointed hats." he said.

Most of the people who cross the Chacao Channel from mainland Chile to the archipelago of Chiloé, some 700 miles south of the capital, Santiago, feel that they are being observed, they told me. And when I arrived on Isla Grande — the largest of the many Chilote islands - after 22 hours on a bus from Santiago and a brief ferry ride, the churning sea and solemn grey sky set the scene perfectly for an experience of the extraordinary. It wasn't until two hours

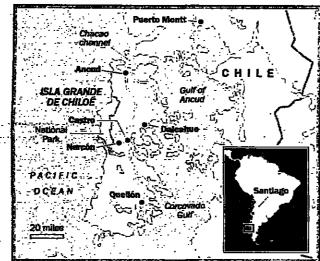
later, when I reached the island's capital, Castro, that I personally experienced this sensation. But it wasn't the cuchivilu, the half-snake, halfpig creature of local mythology whose interest I had aroused; nor, unfortunately, was it the pincoya, a beautiful nymph who dances naked on the beaches. It was the swarthy fishermen in grey pon-chos, standing in the doorways of their houses after a morning's fishing, whose fixed gazes I was sure followed me as I walked down a street of wooden houses which halanced precariously on stilts over the sea. Perhaps it was a slight suspicion, or perhaps simply curiosity, for few foreigners reach Chiloé.

I had been drawn to Chiloé by Bruce Charwin's account. in his collected writings What Am I Doing Here of a place "celebrated for its black storms and black soil". Latin America's second-biggest island (after Tierra del Fuego). Chiloe is some 20 miles wide and 60 miles deep, with a population of 120,000. It is not however, an obvious tourist destination. January and February, the height of the southern summer, can be sunny and pleasantly warm, but for much of the year the island is shrouded by sea mists.

During the winter months. when I visited, the island has the same sort of brooding romantic appeal as the Hebrides, but there is a more menacing feel to Chiloé. The strange creatures which are said to haunt Isla Grande and the smaller islands which make up the archipelago are more than just quaint legends



Fishermen unloading their trawler at the dockside. Ma vny of the Chilote people claim to have encountered the strange creatures which they believe haunt Isla Grande and the Chilote archipelago



for many of the Chilotes. Charwin described the people as possessing an imagination which "churns with tormented mythologies". It is an apt description. Ask the scientists how Chiloé became separated from mainland Chile and you

will be told about tectonic plate movement and glacial erosion. Ask the older Chilotes the same question and you may be told about the evil serpent Caicaivilú who wanted to incorporate the area into her

THE

ntenvilú, Caicai's twin and less of the earth and gode less of the earth and fertili ty, who raised the hills as Caicai vilú flooded the land. Believ 'e whichever version

you wan t but if you side with the scient. ists, do it discreetly. Many of the islanders believe they have actually seen strange creat ures, such as the Caleuche, a g. host ship sailed by wizards whi ch turns into a mck or tree trut, ik if followed, or a Camahueto. s, a pig-like creature whose sir, 'gle horn is said to possess exti aordinary curative powers. N. ly gentle suggestion to C onrado Krause, of the travel agency Chiloe Tours, that this might be a ploy to attract vis. itors. was met with a hurt shrug '-

was based in Castro, tl. 10 archipelago's larges. town, with a population of around 3,500, and the starting point for most of the island's excursions. The extraordinary cathedral is the city's most eye-catching feature: a titanic construction of wood and corrugated-iron, painted bright orange and lilac. Inside, it is just as surreal: the wooden statues. crowned with what looks like human hair, are reminiscent of ancient embalmed bodies in the British Museum. A square-jawed, shop-window mannequin, dressed in priest's robes, adds the finishing touch to this eccentric masterpiece.

A few minutes' walk from

the cathedral is a small museum which houses old farming implements and a selection of ancient bones of the diminutive Chonos Indians, the first known inhabitants of the archipelago who were bundled off to reserves on the nearby Chaulinec Islands, a more remote part of the archipelago. by Jesuits in the 18th century. Today's islanders are a mixture of the indigenous Chonos; the Huilliche Indians who came over from mainland Chile: and the Spanish who



The brightly-painted cathedral in the capital. Castro, overlooks the sea

■ Getting there: Luke Martin made his own travel CHILOE FACT FILE arrangements. Journey atin America (0181-747 8315) arranges trips to

Ch. 'iloé — a ten-night trip including six-nights all-inci 'usive in an outside cabin on Skorpios, a -star liner, starts at £1,923, based on two including flights and two nights in o and Puerio Montt. on a B&B basis. departures in January and February.

■ Cox & Kings (0171-873 5000) also offers a ten-night to our of Chile, staying in four and five star hotels, that includes a day on Chiloe. The price starts a 1 £2.055 and includes flights from Heathrow, Be &B and four lunches - next departure is Fe bruary 2

208405) specialises in tailor-made trips to Chile. A two-week tour that takes in Chilue, staying at four and five-star hotels on a B&B basis, starts at £1,770. (lights included.

■ Reading: What Am I Doing Here by Bruce Chatwin (Picador, £6.99); Chile Handbook by Charlie Nurse (Footprint Handbooks, £10.99): Chile, part of the Insight Guide series (APA Publications, 113.99): Backpacking in Chile and Argentina (Bradt Publications, 110.95): Chile and Easter Island: A Travel Survival Kit be Wayne Bernhardson (Lonely Planet £11.99). Further information: The Chilean Embassy (0171-580 6392).

Last Frontiers (0)844

took possession of the islands in 1567. Elements of all three cultures can be still, be identified in the dances, the myths and the language - a variation of Spanish peculiar to the

archipelago. The Hotel Unicornio Az. al in Castro, with its spacious, p viney rooms and sea views, is to he perfect place for poets and honeymooners. The sea. covered by thick grey mists for much of the time I was there. practically laps at the door-step. In winter, with the rain

A stone's throw from the hotel is the Octavio, a traditional Chilote restaurant which, like many of the seafront houses, is built on stilts over the water. As rainwater dripped into a bucket from the leaky roof and the tape recorder played melancholic Chilote

lashing at the window, the

snug rooms offer delicious

security from the elements.

hearry, truly delicious tradi- ional dish of corn dumplings, sa usage and chicken, served in a deep wooden bowl and covered with a mountain of muss els, should be washed down with one of the excellent wines 1 from the mainland.

songs, I was served the house

speciality, curanto. This

T ad I been a honeymooner or a poet. I would have been in the Uni cornio Azul for weeks, writin g poetry, doing whatever hone symponers do. and strolling bet ween the hotel and the Octavit o. I couldn't justify more than two days of eating, reading and I gazing out of the window, how vever, and decided to check out the brochures I had picked t ip at the tourist information cer. ire.

One of the suggester I trips follows the journey mande by Charles Darwin, who vi sited the archipelago in 1835. The route takes in the church of Nercon, the first of a trail of wooden churches built by th e Jesuits during the 200 years. from 1598, that the Spaniards were barred from parts of mainland Chile by the bellicose Huilliche Indians.

A little further on from Nercor are the picturesque waterfalls of Llicaldad, where, according to another of the islands' legends, neophyte wizards are said to be baptised. The trip ends in the forests of the National Park - an area once greatly feared and avoided at all costs by west coast sailors. Much of the archipelago is still as wild as it was when Darwin visited, but I couldn't help thinking that today's National Park, with its visitors' centre and litter bins, was a some what improbable haunt for the forest-dwelling troll or the evil three-legged Invunche. another of the legendary creatures said to live there. The melancholic allure of

Chiloè's fishing hamlets, fiords and lakes is in danger of being lost as the archipelago develops its tourist potential. Ironically, it is the exploitation of the image of magical faraway Chilné that is bound to bring with it some of the less magical paraphernalia associated with tourism. But, for the time being. Chiloe is still a truly enchanting place.

The morning I had to catch the bus for the long haul back to Santiago, I dropped in to see Oscar Martinez again. An article had recently appeared in El Llanquihue, a mainland newspaper, which quoted Martinez as saying that he had been in touch with a Chilote girl who had been impregnated by a troll. He sensed that I was sceptical: "Come back when the child is born," he said. "Then we'll see if you believe in trolls." Perhans I will.

CHILE ■ Who goes there? Fishermen, hikers, party

animals and wine buvers Getting the ball rolling: The Chilean Embassy, 12 Devonshire St. London WI (0171-580 6392) also acts as the UK office of the national tourist organisation. ■ Perfect timing: October to April is the best time to visit. The far south is warmest between December and March, Santiago is best in spring (Sep-Nov) and autumn (Mar-April). Way to go: Flights with Lanchile Airlines

(0171-730 2128) are best organised through specialist agencies such as Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108). A JLA ricket London-Madrid-Santiago costs from £580 (£775 mid-December to mid-January). Trailfinders (0171-938 3939) offers a return flight in January for £709. Feb-June £589. plus

tax. BA (0345 222111) operates the only direct flight to Santiago from Gatwick, costing £1,143 (Dec-lan); £986 (Feb-May). Any good packages?

(01252 319448) has a new 19-day tour from £1,690, and Worldwide Journeys & Expeditions (0171-381 8638) offers a 21day Highlights of Chile trip from £3,700. Other operators include Guerba Expeditions (01373 826611). ■ Dull but essential: No

visa or jabs needed for British passport holders. Suitcase strategy: Bring back: Beautiful textiles and jewellery, ponchos,

■ Pound in your pocket: El = 720 pesos. Order in advance. Take dollar traveller cheques. Turn of phrase: "Si po".

which means "yes, of course". ■ Big no-nos: Declaiming on Chilean politics. Going topless on the beach - this is not Brazil.

■ Nasty surprises: Chilean pisco, tequila's grapederived cousin in the headache stakes, is served with lemon juice, egg white and sugar. Not to be missed: Fiords, glaciers and volcanoes of the south. Chilean wine. In the Atacama desert, there

SOPHIE CAMPBELL

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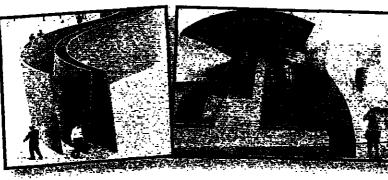
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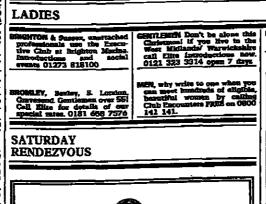
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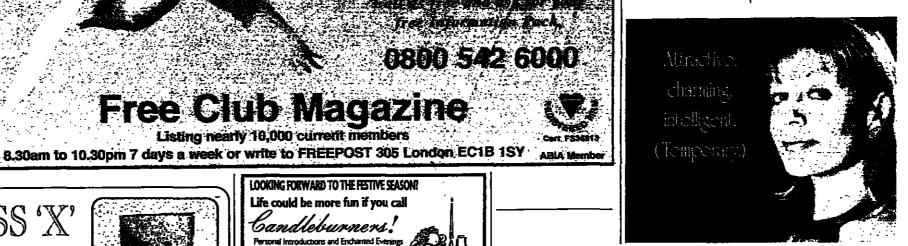
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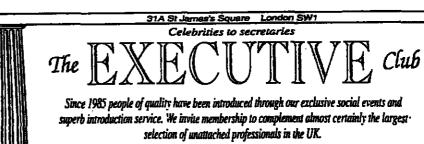
(My boss says it suits mc!)



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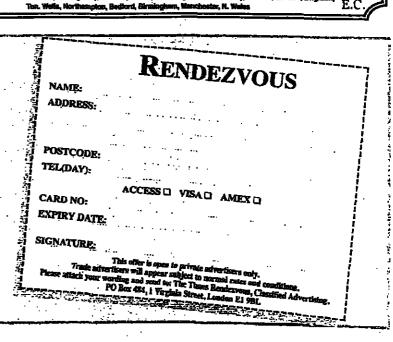
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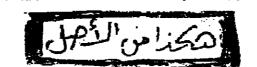
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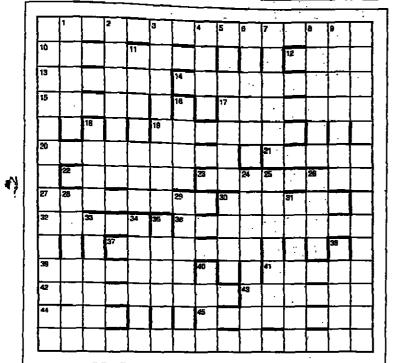
THE 基際 TIMES



)

#### THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

#### No 3440: Hard One? by Calmac



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3440 in association with Waterstone's

NAME. ADDRESS..

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3440, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Monday, December 29.



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KELLERMAN 餐 🛎

Whisperer Praks

BALLSTER PERSONAL

22 Nxc5 Qd6 23 Ne4

26 ... Nef6 27 Rc7 Rfd8 28 Ng5!

position.

25 Rc1

28 ...

Dunsinane.

White's pawn sacrifice to activate

the d-pawn is the key to this

Ne8 26 d6

At last Birnam Wood comes to

A QUOTATION cited in ODQ appears (in its original language) in the perimeter squares of the completed puzzle. With the exception of the first and last across and down clues respectively (which are normal), every clue contains a misprint of one letter in its definition part. The correct letters, taken in clue order, spell out a further quotation from the same person (also in its original language), followed by the writer's name. In each quotation one diacritical mark is ignored for the purposes of this puzzle. Chambers gives all answers save one proper name.

#### ACROSS

10 Likely future minister from Nairn, odd sort (8) 12 Bitch about enrolled nurse (4) 13 Type of veal diminutive person wanted (6)

14 Square log possibly having projection which catches careless damsel (9) 15 Small dram for which bill's presented to troopers (5) 17 Bint I've embraced and cuddled (7)

19 One could be seen blaming poor clueing (7) 20 Idiot Mama's abandoned tarts for complicated mine pies! (9)
21 Herring possibly from Sweden, rarely seen (5)
22 Jewry could be so described mostly, originating in East, around Chaldean city (6)

23 Person breaking down rata is nearly as had (S) 27 Feature in which gumshoe meets Academician - you'll find some put off here (S)

30 Like Timor, say, area almost entirely invaded by rotagonists of greater Indonesia (6) 32 Energy shown by bishop before six? (5) 36 One who giggles about Wales being cheaper (9) 37 Singed feathery wreath after initially leaving deposit

39 Coke in Massachusetts? Conservative governor's holding line (7) 41 Managed to keep journalist's fieldwork, consisting

of two faxes (5) 42 Cable is in kinks, producing sound associated with an ass (9)

OPLUMTE STHUM P

DEENS"ANCE"AVER

ARES LAVYPRES U

FIFTHSOLEPAIR

OSTITPILESEAN

PENCEIEASTADD

S L E K L C L B T S C Z U

M A T S B E A N P A D B A
O G L E S S T T I M B A L

WHALLSSUINODS

NOIL LEES LOWLY

RACES RATWILYE

<u>B h 6</u>

43 Gravel may contain this metallic element (article and note inside) (b) 44 Section of Bill unrepealed, in retrospect now valid

45 Slightest trial involves husband heading for pub (8)

! Regions in Austria gripped by war (5)
2 Bachelor sustained by April love, exercised about youth and its antithesis? (7)

3 Girl in a state, nicknamed Palmette, perhaps? (8) 4 Season over, take responsibility for recession? (4) 5 Forger resident in Roman province offering nearly new tiara — dodgy (7)

6 Headless convict found in Shetland hay (b) 7 Disturbing features of screams as small boy perishes

8 English master entertained by head, amply (6) 9 Risk once more evident in high sierra (Spain) (7) 11 Silly cretin, one living behind sandbags? (7) 16 Tardy hero beginning to excavate beneath mass of

18 Cercal disease turning stomachs? (4) 24 Lake poet possibly first to ride in lorry (S) 25 Mary years ago described Papal palace - here's more recent article (7)

26 Society of Engineers securing Irish patent (4) 28 Maori RU fanatic draped in this scarf would be crosser (7)

29 In Manchester numerous postal structures converge here (7) 30 Formidable competitor heartlessly establishing line of mills in Tasmania (4)

3) Starts to go easy on hair dye as well (7) 33 Monty in Moscow, heading off disturbance (6) 34 Slamming foundation working to support register

35 Agrees to work out possible content of gut (6)

38 Pick last of delphinia in Italian city (5) 40 Alpine Club volunteers to produce official minutes

#### Solution and Notes to No 3437 Message by MynoT

**COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES** 

by Tim Wapshott

2. PLUME, 5. footers, 9. cHUMP, 12. DETENSIVE, 13. dANCE, 14. fAVourER, 15. cAdRES, 16. fLAVour, 18. cY PRES. 20. three FIFTHS, 21. dCILCE 22. three-PAIR, 23. TincT, 25. three-PILE, 20. SEdAN, 29. sixPENCE, 32. nE[AST, 34. threaDeD, 38. KEnaf, 39. sixPENCE, 32. hbOtcher, 42. fromatts, 44. began, 46. spadix, 48. bogele, 50. festive, 51. timbale, 52. Half-lives, 53. squib, 54. threnodes, 57. ben-oil, 58. sleevens, 59. https://dx.doi.org/10.1003/j.ce.1003/j.ce.1003/ bLOW-fLY, 60. seveRAnCES, 61. kRAff, 62. Weight LY

The correctly edited message thus reads: 1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Nxc3 dx 5. N/3 N/6x6. Be4 gx 7.

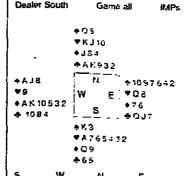
The missing finale to the message is: (0. Bho which is, of course, checkmate (BHo also accepted). The winner is Adam McBride, of Edinburgh, Scotland. The

runners up are J. Andrews, of Rayleigh, Essex; N.E. Sharp, of Edinburgh, Scotland; M.G. Sykes of Norwich, Norfolk; R.A. Pinnock of Birmingham, West Midlands: Arthur Hall of Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex.

#### BRIDGE by Robert Sheehan

THE MACALLAN International Bridge Pairs is one of the most prestigious events in the calendar. It is held in London in late January. The 32 players for the 1908 event include more than 20 current or past world champions, including two of the French pairs who are the holders of the Olympiad title and

the Bermuda Bowl. This hand was played in the 1997 Macallan, Can you see any defence against Four Hearts? Dealer South



Contract. Four Hearts by South, Lead: the ace of dramonds.

This auction occurred at several tables. If you play Weak Twos, Two Hearts is the best choice of opening on the South hand. In general it is preferable to open with a three-hid when you have a seven-card suit. but in this case the suit is too poor and the character of the hand too defensive for the higher pre-empt. When Nick Nickell was South.

Helness (West), started with ace and king of diamonds, and then the ace of spades. East (Geir Helgemo, the world individual champion) played high-low on the diamonds to show a doubleton, and then discouraged with the two on the acc of spades. West now played a third round of diamonds. Do you see the point of that?

East ruffed the jack of diamonds with the eight of hearts. When declarer overruffed with the ace of hearts he had to decide whether to play for the remaining hearts to be 1-1, or for West to have started with Q9. On the basis that as West held length in diamonds he was unlikely to be long in hearts, Nickell played for the drop and made his contract. But notice that the defence gave

him a problem where none would exist if West had played anything other than a diamond at trick four. Also, notice that if East's hearts had been QSs, playing the third diamond would have beaten the contract for certain.

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1998. in association with The Times and The Sunday Times, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NWI from Wednesday January 21 to Friday January 23. Tickets and information from: The Macallan Box Office. 31 Queen's Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH (0181-878 5844).

• the Times Book of Bridge Liby Robert Snechan, is available from brokshops, or from Barsfords (01376 321276) at 1699 plus P&P £1.

#### WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 28
BELLMAN AND TREW

(b) Ranter and Ringwood, Bellman and Trew, hounds in the now politically incorrect hunting song.
"Dye ken John Peel?" By J. W. Graves (1795-1880). The affirmative reply to the question names his hounds. GUACA

(a) A general term for the objects connected with the religious worship of the Incas, for example, idols, temples or grave ornaments. GRESSORIAL

(c) Adapted for walking or stepping. Formed for or having the habit of walking. Ambulatory. The

David Mendel of Ealing, west

North American, 1877: "The forelimbs, small and neat, indicating predominance of prehensile over merely gressorial faculties." EPILLIÖN

(c) A type of verse popular from Theocritus to Ovid. A narrative poem of between 100 and 600 hexameters, with a hero or heroine.

#### **TWO BRAINS**

From page 28

Question 1: +5.28

1485 **Ouestion 2:** 

#### **CHESS**

#### by Raymond Keene

IN THE run-up to Christmas I Black should not permit e4-e5. It shall be taking a look at a couple of was necessary to play 17 ... Bd4+! books which offer aggressive systems first for White, and then for Black, in two of the most popular

18 es! Bug3 19 bug3 dxe5

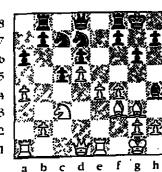
20 fxe5 Qg5 21 Ne4 Qxe5 modern openings, the King's Indian Defence and the Sicilian Defence. For those planning to participate over the new year in the Hastings Congress, these ideas could be valuable point scorers.

First, a new book by grandmaster Anatoly Vaisser, Beating the King's Indian and Benoni (Batsford, £12.99). Not for Vaisser the subtle strategies deployed by such grandmasters of Preparing a decisive piece sacrifice. strangulation as Botvinnik, Petrosian and Karpov against the ever popular King's Indian Defence (a favourite of Tal, Fischer and Kasparov). Vaisser's preferred route is to attempt to blast this defence, and its close relative the Benoni, right from the board with an aggressive on-rush of White's central pawns from the very start of the game. This week's encounter shows Vaisser's ideas in action. A typical component of the attack is the creation of a far-flung passed d-pawn for White, as the logical outcome of White's seething forest

of marching central pawns. White: Anatoly Vaisser; Black: Ilya Smirin PCA (rapidplay) Moscow 1996

King's Indian Defence d5 Be2 10 0-0 11 Re1

An unusual idea in this position. More common is 11 . . . Res. a6 13 Be3 Nc7 Rb8 15 Bh4 Bf6 Bxf3 17 Bxf3 Bh4?



29 Re2! First driving away Black's queen

cdefgh

29 ... Qb4 and now giving up the knight! 30 Nbd7! Kxd7 31 Re7+ Kg8

31 ... Kf8 changes nothing. White plays 32 Qd3 and after both 32... Ng4+ 33 Bxg4 Qxg4 34 Qc3 Qh5+ 35 Kg1 Qd1+ 36 Kf2 Ne5 37 Rxe5 and 32 ... Ng8 33 Qxg61 Nxe7 34 Qxh6+ Kf7 35 Bh5+ Kg8 36 Qe6+ Kh8 37 dxe7 White wins.

32 Qd3 Ng4+ 32 ... Nf8 does not help: 33 Rg7+ Kh8 34 Qe3 g5 35 Qe7 Qd4 36 Rg6 Ng8 37 Qf7 Nd7 38 Be4 with mate in two.

33 Bxg4 Qxg4 34 Qb3+ Black resigns

The Fide version of the world championship is now in progress in Groningen, Holland, Kasparov has refused to play under the new system, a 100-player knockout, stating that "the format flies directly in the face of tradition and trivialises the world title".

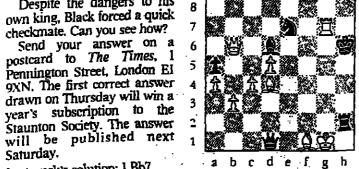
#### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Ni Hua - Wang Pin, Beijing 1997. Despite the dangers to his

own king, Black forced a quick checkmate. Can you see how? Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer

Last week's solution: 1 Bb7

Last week's winner was G. Laurence, of Macclesfield,



### FANCY a trip to London this weekend? Then head to the Wired

Whitehall site, a "prototype virtual urban information system" being developed by the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis at Univer-College London. Wired Whitehall (http://www.casa.ucl. ac.uk/vuis/) is a 3D tour of London's landmarks.

You can stroll around Covent Garden, Leicester and Trafalgar Squares, Whitehall, Horse Guards Parade, Buckingham Palace and Parliament Square. Eventually you will also be able to walk into a clutch of shops, hotels and restaurants to complete the experience. To run the demo you will need to

download a free small programme, Jutvision Plug-in 3.0, by following the clear instructions given. You can then view scenes in a smaller screen which rotate through 360 degrees. Click and hold both mouse buttons to zoom into the picture and get the illusion of moving around in it - until it falls wildly out of focus. Within the scenes. some hotlinks already work. Click on the Swiss Centre in Leicester Square and you'll be whisked away to a Switzerland briefing site. Even on slower machines the results are impressive.



CONGRATULATIONS to our two winners of Cyberspace Thirty-Eight, who win a day to remember at Brand's Hatch race track. Readers were asked to come up with a television advert for an imaginary, if unlikely, Skoda sports car. David Nicholds of Paddock Wood, Kent, sold his Skoda around a racing housewife. She dreams she has

won a Brand's Hatch race in her speedy Skoda and, when she wakes up, a large silver cup on the sideboard suggests this was no dream. She leaves the house to be greeted by cheers from friends and neighbours surrounding her Skoda which she drives off to the winning "A wolf in sheep's clothing!".

Museum in front of various cars and aircraft. He rattles off man's monumental achievements in the evolution of transport, incorporating Rudolf Diesel's patenting of the internal combustion engine, the Wright brothers' first sustained flight in 1903, the first moonwalk in 1969 and, a few weeks ago, Thrust breaking the land-speed record. The picture changes to the racetrack and the faint sound of a

sports engine getting nearer. McDonald adds: "Now, as the century draws to a close, comes an achievement no less remarkable. no less historic and breathtaking in its accomplishment: the new Skoda sports car. A giant leap in transport for mankind. Congratulations to our two win-

ners who, with a guest each, will spend a day at the Brand's Hatch circuit putting a BMW series 3 and a single-seater racing car through their paces.

Along with six runners up they will also receive PC copies of Codemaster's TOCA Touring Car Championship,

AND FINALLY, this is the last London, would enlist Trevor Me-Donald to front his Skoda spectacchance to win £500 worth of gaming goodies from Tiger Elecular. The newsreader is standing in the main hall at the Science tronics in Cyberspace Thirty-Nine, which closes on Tuesday. We have two game stacks to be won, topped with a "game com" handheld console, which takes miniature game carrridges and can even be used as a basic link to the Internet.

Included in the treasure chests are a child's laptop computer. junior electronic organiser, Batman & Robin walkie talkies. Hercules and Lost World LCD games. a pair of Laser Tag zappers, voice changers and a Giga Per.

Entering the competition is very easy. Just send us your favourite seasonal joke. Decent rib-ticklers only, please, and just one per household, should be clearly written and submitted on a postcard to: Cyberspace Thirty-Nine. Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend. The Times. 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

You may also e-mail your jokes. clearly marked Cyberspace Thirty-Nine, to cyber@dircon.co.uk. Please include your name, age, address and telephone number. Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

#### **NEW SOFTWARE**

SHE is old and wears slack stockings over legs so bowed you could drive a herd of cattle through them. She is also completely batty. Granny is the first character you come across in Telstar's zany adventure Dementia. This is a madcap romp similar in feel to the hugely popular Sam and Max series, with crazy characters taking toon-style abuse in a large, colourful animated 3D world. Unlikely things happen to stretch, squeeze and flatten the characters, like the giant elephant's foot which comes crushing down on Granny when she pops into the bedroom. The storyline involves the sadis-

tic Crotony family, which delights in bringing terror to defenceless animals on which they experiment. Now one of the animals has had enough and has set out to seek revenge. You must unravel the

ensuing chaos by guiding granny. This is a point-and-click adven-ture, with hotspots and visual rewards galore, Dementia is a good-looking product loaded in anarchic surrealism. You encounter an endless stream of hurdles stopping you from progressing to the next scene, from mind-boggling puzzles and riddles to quirky arcade-style games, Comes on five Windows 95 CD-Roms. ◆ Verdict: 7 out of 10. Wacky animated adventures in a surreal setting, £39.99.

MARIA CALLAS, one of the world's greatest opera singers, gets the interactive treatment in Callas Tosca, based around the EMI Classics range. Deemed the quintessential diva, her personal life was often a tragedy of operatic proportions -- as is this CD-Rom. This package is based around the



complete mono audio recording of Puccini's opera, which Callas performed in 1953 at La Scala in Milan. There is also a gallery of Callas photographs and images. some taken from the production of Tosca staged at Covent Garden. You can call up an on-screen Italian libretto of the opera, with English translations, as well as a synopsis. The discography of Cal-las recordings includes a selection of audio and video footage extracts. But the programme, like the diva's

own private life, is troubled.

The CD-Rom is available for either Mac or PC and the latter version refused to play properly no matter what. The first glaring error crops up in the installation instructions, which tell you to type "Tosca" to load the title. In fact, you have to type "Callas". The programme requires the monitor to be set to 256-colours yet still failed to respond correctly. The resultant images were messy and any text quite unreadable. Only the audio tracks and video sequences ran smoothly and these entries were thoroughly enjoyable and almost, but not quite, worth the operating hassles. Verdict: 5 out of 10. Flaky Maria Callas archive, £29,99.

#### **SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 138** |'C|U|'R|I|'O|S|'I|T|'Y|K|'I|L|''L|E|'D|T|'H|E|'C|A|'T "PICTURE 0 "SELFRESTRAINT "B| A| C| K| P| E| D| A| L| L| I| N| G| M A S A I "R O O T E D O U T I T S T H Y OLIGARCHICE "OPTIM" ISE PASSENGERPIGEON "FLIGHTREC"ORDER 'MOUNTA" INCHAINS "TRADIT"NGSTAMP PROXIMEACCESSIT FIRERAISER "LATERAL GATESHEAD "L| ||"F|E|H|||S|T|O|R|Y| T A T U M HENLEY REGATTA "PARALL"ELOG"RAM SAMUELCOLERIDGETAYLOR

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD300, worth £125, is Daphne Mackenzie, of Wootton Under Edge, Glos,

to 1pm. lephone led the

ie name lability. arks of YI 6XL.

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

AND A BRAND

FACE ...

NEW PUBLIC

#### MODERN MANNERS

#### by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners. The Times, Weekend, J Pennington Street, London El 9XN

Champions Marcus and Karen Hilton, who were each awarded an MBE this year. My question is how should one address or refer to this couple? Surely "Marcus and Karen Hilton MBE" can't be right. P.S. Marcus and Karen are married to each other. - John

Fisher, London SE27. The couple should be referred to as Mr Marcus Hilton MBE and Mrs Marcus Hilton MBE,

My friend and I are both poor music students who regularly play at private parties hosted by an extremely wealthy woman. Not only does she pay less than the going rate but she also does not offer us food or drink. We do not want to refuse this work as we need the money but would tacifully like to encourage her to treat us more respectfully.

- Name and address withheld.

A Sentiments like yours are often most tactfully ex-pressed via a third party. So, ask a friend to act as a kind of agent. All she or he has to do is to ring up your rich client and say: "The girls are getting increasingly busy and have asked me to help organise their fees and conditions and so forth." Don't be afraid that such actions might frighten your client off: they should have quite the upposite

Could you make a stand against the Americanisation of English pudding into "dessert"? Pretentious and inaccurate: dessert, as everyone should surely be reminded by Christmas dinner. is nuts, raisins, tangerines and so on, and comes after pudding. You should need neither a spoon nor a fork. - Anne Kiggell, Pangbourne. Berkshire.

My column throws its full A weight behind your campaign. I look forward to enjoying both quite different courses in abundance this Christmas.

It now seems common prac-tice never to find a water jug or glasses on the table at functions. I object to having to buy bottled water for around 85p per glass when pure water comes out of my own tap for less than tp for the same amount. Will I be out of order if I ask for, or insist on, plain water at my monthly club luncheon date? -Oldknow, Derby.

Absolutely not.

Should one use the man's initial or first name addressing a married lady, or is this old fashioned and not PC?

ALFRED DUNHILL

LONDON

Another point is how does one shows World Dance Sport address an "out-ed" gay comple of either sex? — R.D. Allum, Kingsthorne, Hereford. .

At the risk of inflaming At the risk of mulaning feminist fires across the nation I would recommend that a man's initial or first name should still be used when addressing a married woman. Using her own name implies she is a divorcée. Concerning lesbian couples I am not keen on "The Misses" as this suggests a blood bond rather than a romantic attachment, and would recommend that they should be styled as Miss Anne Brown and Miss Eve Smith. Similarly, two cohabiting gay men could be Mr Joe Brown and Mr John Smith. Only if the state decides to recognise gay marriage will a joint prefix become appropriate.

I avoid many social events because I hardly ever drink alcohol. How can I deal with people who question my choice

without showing my annoyance, when they ask if I am sure that I only want a soft drink? I do not want to have to justify this choice with false excuses. -Patrick Fisher, Bromsgrove, Worcs.

A It is extraordinary how in British society not drink-ing alcohol is still considered slightly suspect, and this is why people like your-self have to justify their

requests for non-alcoholic drinks. The secret is to sound really excited about the prospect of a soft drink rather than appearing apologetic, such as by saying: "I'd absolutely love a glass of water." Such brisk optimism will dispel any lingering doubts your host might have.

[It is traditional for a little to return her engagement (t is traditional for a woman ring if her forthcoming marriage is called off but what is the form for a divorcée, particularly in the case of family rings? - M.J.W. London W8.

Once married, the engagement ring belongs to the wife. and thus it is usual for her to keep it. However, in the case of an ancestral engagement ring, there is a moral obligation to return it to the family of origin. One woman showed great manners and savoir faire in this area recently when, having divorced her husband of five years (she had no daughter from this marriage), returned the engagement ring to her former mother-in-law with the accompanying note: "It is with sadness that I return this ring. Over the last few years it has brought me great joy as well as much pain. Although I love its beauty, it belongs in your family rather than on my hand." How about that for style John Morgan is associate editor of



#### WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BELLMAN AND TREW a. Solicitors in Galsworthy b. Lakeland hounds c. Olympic oarsmen

**GUACA** a. Religious objects b. Bird droppings

c. Exudation from tropical plants GRESSORIAL

a. An Oxford college function b. Memorial musical composition c. Ambulatory

EPILLION a. Greek punctuation mark b. A motor cycle design

c. Literary poetic form Answers on page 27 | Answers on page 27

#### TWO BRAINS

THE frontiers of memory records are being constantly pushed back. It may seem amazing to be able to memorise 30 packs of shuffled cards but this was the world record in 1989, and it has been smashed several times since. The current world record is held by Dominic O'Brien, who committed one error in memorising 40 packs totalling 2.080 rards.

Question I: What numbers can replace these letters (no 0 or 3)?

> + BDG **EFGB**

What animal can be formed by using all of these letters?

a, e, m, m, o, r, s, t

#### **CROSS** WORDS by Brian Greer

y reflections on clueing will continue, but today I want to address some points about words used in recent crosswords. A couple of correspondents have echoed Macaulay, who was given to remarks such as "Every schoolboy knows who imprisoned Montezuma and who strangled Atahualpa". I am told that every schoolboy knows that "ilk" means "place", and does not mean "class". I dispute, not only that every schoolboy (or, indeed, schoolgirl) knows this, but also that it is true. The Concise

Oxford Dictionary's first defini-

tion of "ilk" is "a family, class,

sort, or kind". Likewise. I am

prepared to wager that few

schoolchildren know that the genund has no plural. "Referendum", according to a former Referendum Party candidate, is not a gerundive but a gerund. and therefore "referenda" is wrong. Again, I call to the stand the harmless drudges of Oxford, who not only allow "referenda" but describe "referendum" as 'gerund or gerundive of referre".

Another writer pointed out that a bench-mark is a surveyor's mark to record height and claimed that it is journalese to define it as "a standard", since it is mean sea level that is the standard. However, the dictionaries I have consulted confirm that the term can be used in a general sense to mean "standard" and that, in the technical sense, the bench-mark acts as a reference point.

It should be clear by now that the crossword team neither claims nor exhibits omniscience. Rather, that exists in distributed form among our thousands of solvers, and I trust that they collectively will continue to bring errors and inaccuracies to our attention. Letters about Cross-word Two and Jumbos should be addressed to Richard Browne and Mike Laws, respectively. For the Listener puzzle. Mike Rich deals with general corres-pondence and Ross Beresford with puzzle submissions.

Answer for last week's due:

#### PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and Pain, a character from the Disney film Hercules, might be saying to one another.

This picture, recently printed in The Times, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, EI 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 17.

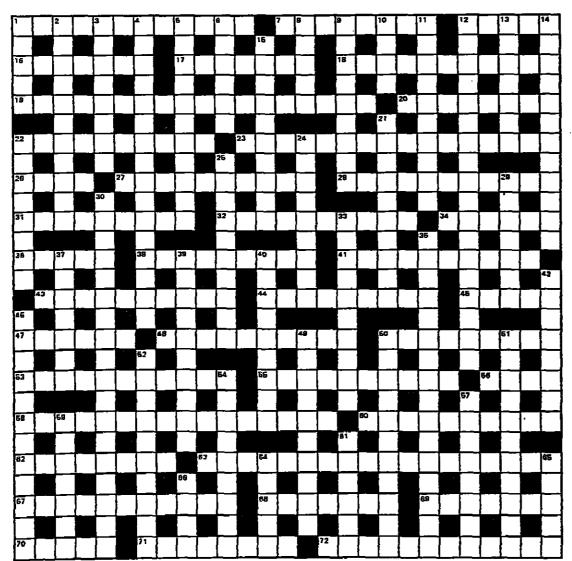
Last week's winning caption, left. was submitted by John Griffiths, of Langton Herring, Dorset.



#### **JUMBO CROSSWORD 140**

GQ magazine.

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 140, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN to arrive by Thursday, December 18. The name of the winner will be published on Saturday, December 27.



NAME

1 A way to take in a circus, when in

7 I could get first of two, almost having £1,000 to secure it (8)

12 What is 67 and 747? (5) 16 Escaped, if losing 5-0, given help?

17 Politican catches egg thrown over clothes (7) 18 Admire Green's agitation

becoming a force in France (I I) 19 Watch out — always prepare potatoes carefully (4,4,4.6)

20 Look into cuts, manufacturing

footwear (8)

22 Specifying a figure — around 50p, basically? (10)
23 Way part of forces confined most of Irish town, in the event (6, 10)

26 Acts according to the rules (4)

27 Demolished the temple, to accommodate new plant (4-6)
28 Person, feeble and cowardly, in the shade (5,6)

31 Preserve what's acquired, with new alarm installed (9)
32 Insane chief has lasting effect on

the island (10)

34 A very long way from being standard dry wine (6)

36 I'll get up part of the staircase (5) 38 No longer viable, having sold all fruit? (3,2.4)

41 Original versions of two numbers, both lacking character somewhere

43 Production of opera, sir? I'm there at the outset (10)
44 Such a forecast has far-reaching implications (4-5)

45 A wicket remains flooded (5)

47 Join in forward thrust, finally going hard (6) 48 Heated situation, where copper could become involved (7-3)

50 Poem went smoothly, belonging to short-lived fashion, on reflection (9)

53 Rood's primarily of avail when recollecting fateful journey (3,8) 55 Larks about in assembly? (10)

56 Friend embraces wife - here's the

58 I'll abandon cute hesitation with skilled workers in scientfic study

60 Am I unable to celebrate about support for bridge? (10) 62 One has a few to test for equality

of measure (8) 63 Make proposal to lift bread

shortage, and put in a lot of effort (4.6.3.5)

67 Such a poser as this may be thickskinned (11)

68 Very keen, having trendy past, perhaps (7)

69 One is allowed to include German representations (7) 70 Making rapid progress in turnover of joke books (3-2)

71 National Theatre to be taken over. and become duli (8) 72 Lose next bet, being wrong about English insect (6.6)

I Such mountains are in Australia

2 Revolutionary idea, following

reduced pressure on one in debt 3 A hoard I'm reorganising for

amateur broadcaster (5,3)

4 Harboured design to stage grand entertainment? (6,5,5)

5 Bad egg found in a barrel? (6.5) 6 New winger discovered in weird-

sounding situation (6) 8 One may be versed in the concept of "horses for courses" (5)

9 Snoopy relative lodged in this sheltered accommodation? (3,6) 10 Taking time off to tease another

relative? (4) 11 Made of very hard material, a piece can fade on the outside (10) 12 Embrace latest cause, and

suddenly attack old Greek? Affected-sounding monster! (4,2,3,9)

13 High-ranking officer spoils little Prince [7]

14 Broach the port, for light repast

15 It's hard to pull out, as convictions may be long-term (4-6)

Penetrating material sent up I mean to change (10)

22 Stamp printed in gold, indicating first class (8)

24 Description of staunch environmentalist in a tree? (9) Stop farmer breaking up subsoil (10)

US city (Southern California) - a prime place for singers and musicians (2,5)

30 Reasonable chance it's just a suide remark from parliamentarian (4,5,2,3,4)

National conglomerate takes supporting pastures new (10) 35 Disputed point? See enemy swell up, over assertion (4,2,10)

37 Island Sparta must have revolutionised (7) 39 Ship's protection, half of it repaired, finished on time (7-3)

40 Once very powerful, sunk into oblivion? (9 42 One may produce a blow for the

artist (8) 46 Shattered quiet pause round university with very panicked state (5,3,4)

Can't help fussing about SF film. as a medium for cryptic messages 50 Action taken by passengers finally coming off? (11)

51 Meaning to take notice very shortly? Perhaps (11) 52 Right doctor managed to get in beds for divers (10) 54 A quiet burrower heads a new

museum (9) 57 Time taken supporting a legal right in foreign state (8)

59 Scribbled on a page, demonstrating moon's furthest point (7) 61 Show testimony to be heartless (6) 64 Be second to block the way out (5) 65 See old husband turn up — it was on the cards he'd write (5)

66 Eager to be uplifted, see her in 29?

# TWO MES OSSWORD

#### No 1276

DOWN

Record of sum owed (5) Big chest of drawers (7)

Unenthusiastic (13) Elan, spirit (5) Go back: a den (7)

15 \_ clown's garb (6) 17 Drive back (attack) (5)

19 US president, resigned 1974 (5)

14 Clown ... (7)

Visit pantry for snack (4,3,6) Vegetable; tricky business when hot (6)

East Russia, used for exile

ACROSS I Frighten off (5)
4 Tedious activity: confusion

(7) 8 Of projectile flight (9) 9 Decay; nonsense (3) 10 A flap; staff officer collar in-signia (3)

Private conversation (4-1-4) 12 Personal manner, particu-lar pattern (5)

13 Scope bounds (5) 16 Uncivilised, uncouth (9)

18 Part of fish; sounds like Trollope's Phineas (3)
20 Hit fightly: sounds like enfold (3)

21 Eugene — 19C Fr. painter (9) 22 Body hypersensitivity (7) 23 Flax fabric (5)

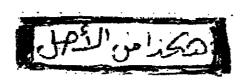
SOLUTION TO NO 1275

ACROSS: J Antique 5 Damp 9 Ladle 10 Conquer 11 Clotted cream 12 Gordon 13 Seabed 16 Pigs might fly 19 Enlarge 20 Brill 21 Send 22 Shelley

DOWN: 1 Ally 2 Tiddler 3 Question mark 4 Eschew 6 Abuse 7 Pyramid 8 Unacceptable 12 Gophers 14 Balliol 15 Egress 17 Galen 18 Clay

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#### HIGH STREE Picabo returns Tom Finney's to the slopes earrings **PAGE 40 PAGE 35**

**TAKING** WING

Austin Healey changes gear PAGE 41





#### WEEKEND MONEY

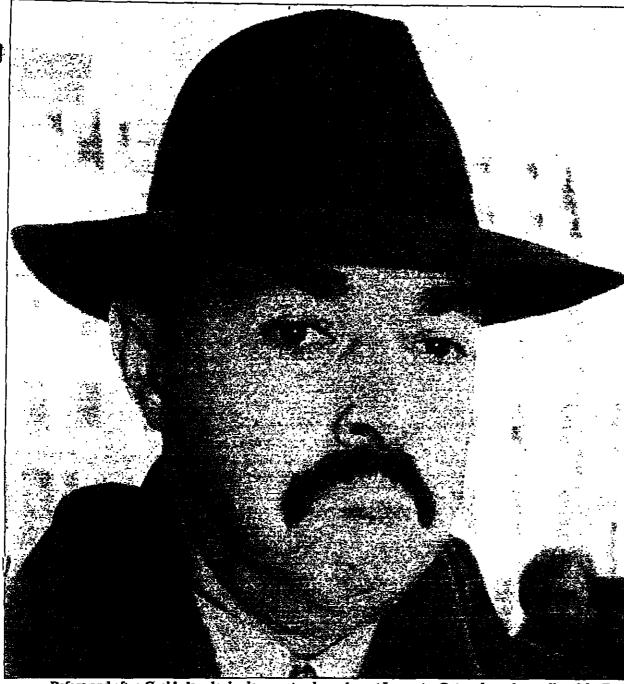
House prices: you ain't seen nothing yet PAGE 64

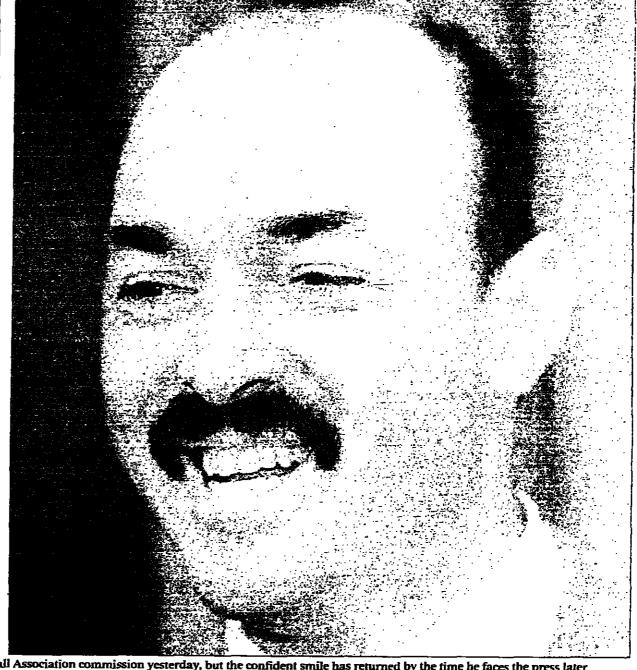


The cars you can't buy for Christmas **PAGE 45** 

# THE TIMES SPORT

DECEMBER 13 1997





Before and after: Grobbelaar looks downcast as he arrives at Lancaster Gate to hear the verdict of the Football Association commission yesterday, but the confident smile has returned by the time he faces the press later

### FA blows the final whistle

By JOHN GOODBODY

FOOTBALL'S longest and most wide-reaching controversy ended yesterday when Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were each given a suspended six-month suspension and a £10,000 fine for misconduct after admitting that they had tried to help a Far East betting syndicate to forecast the results of matches.

In November 1994, Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, stood on the steps at Lancaster Gate and received a dossier of allegations from journalists of The Sun.

Just over three years later, Grobbelaar, 39, the Zimbabwe and former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper, stood on the same steps, and prepared to try to put the past behind him. Wearing a matching russet-coloured hat and mackintosh, he posed for a photograph with a building-site worker and then strode Taway to resume his flamboyant

Segers, 36, the former Wimbledon

with Wolverhampton Wanderers and is hoping to play in the Nationwide League first division match against Nottingham Forest at Molineux tomorrow.

The two goalkeepers, along with John Fashanu, the former England and Wimbledon striker, and a Malaysian businessman, Richard Lim. were all found not guilty earlier this year of criminal charges of matchfixing. However, during their trials. Grobbelaar and Segers admitted that they had taken money for trying to forecast the results of matches, Grobbelaar in English games and Segers for matches in Holland. They also admitted that they had occasionally supplied information about Eng-lish fixtures. However, neither tried to forecast the results of games in

which they were playing. The FA rule preventing players from betting is intended to stop those involved in the sport from giving information about matches to those involved in betting on the outcome. Both players told the commission that they had not fully appreciated the FA's rules regarding assisting others to bet.

The three-man commission viewed the misconduct as "serious" and said that both players would normally receive a six-month ban from all forms of football and a £10,000 fine. However, the commission, which heard the evidence in a five-hour hearing on Thursday, concluded that, given the "severe financial

Managers as alchemists Oliver Holt Rund Gullit Magazine

hardship and three-year blight on their careers", they had already suffered considerably.

The commission of Jeff Thompson, the disciplinary committee chairman, Barry Bright, his vice-chair-man, and Frank Pattison. a committee member, said that it would "be unfair to impose a penalty which would take the two goalkeepers out of the game".

two years and will be imposed only if either player commits a similar offence within that time. Each player was also ordered to pay £4,000

towards the costs of the hearing. Grobbelaar said afterwards that three years ago he had been "devastated" by the allegations. "It became clear to me that there was some sort of conspiracy against Bruce Grobbelaar." he said. The player felt he had now been exonerated and was happy to resume his career. "I am waiting for offers." he added.

Grobbelaar is without a club at present but said that he was planning to carry on his libel action against one newspaper "to clear my name once and for all in these maners". He added that he did not believe that he had effectively been let off by the FA. "It is a serious matter. Had I known the penalties before, I would never have entered into the agreement with certain people. As it happens, I was

He said that, physically, the whole

"However, mentally and financially, it has devastated me and my family.

he added. Mel Goldberg, Segers's solicitor, said that his client accepted the decision. "As far as Hans is concerned, he was forecasting, not betting, but forecasting on matches

played in Holland. Goldberg said that Segers did not know that, by doing that, he could be in breach of FA rules in this country. The FA has decided that the forecasting of matches in Holland is an extra-territorial offence for which he

could be charged with misconduct."
The FA decided, six weeks ago, to clamp down on players, directors and managers who bet on the outcome of matches, even though the relevant rule has been in existence for many years. As a result of an inquiry led by Sir John Smith, a former deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, all clubs have been reminded of the rule that prohibits players, officials and referees from assisting or taking part in gambling on football, apart from the pools.

### ร้อมกรร 1G2 544 ಮ 59% 495 JASAR 227 SER ISE AVA 354

### The Sutton incident? Ah yes, Wenger remembers it well

terday lunchtime. Lurking self-consciously in the corridor of a Hertfordshire hotel, waiting for Arsène Wenger to give one of his aplendid press conferences, I had one of those wrong-endof-the-telescope sensations that come all too frequently

with this job. Trolleys of aromatic food passed tantalisingly left to right, while David Seaman kept travelling teasingly right to left. Much as I would hate to be represented as a droofing girlie, it has to be admitted that these two phenomena. criss-crossing in front of me, mused precisely similar effects on the saliva glands.

hacks, who affected a polite interest. "Also, I just sat in a chair still bearing the bodywarmth of Football Focus's Gary Richardson." Clearly, I had been away from football for too long, but it was wonderful to be back.

Wenger gives good press conferences. The bright, casual atmosphere at this quiet, posh hotel, its corridors festooned with framed footie testimonials and signed shirts, is evidently very congenial to him. David Platt once spent three months living here. The Spain team stayed here during Euro 96. And Sheffield Wednesday were

"David Scaman smiled at checking in later, before their me," I told other waiting match at Upton Park today. To anybody who played imaginary hotels in their youth, this was scary enough to induce a kind of vertigo.

At the age of 12, my friend, Hilary, and I had a hotel register full of Paul McCartneys and Herman's Hermits, but most important, we had the

1966 World Cup squad. "Take this sandwich and glass of orange up to Bobby Charlton," we would command each other. "Nobby Stiles wishes to see the wine list." Ian Wright walks past. No sign of Bergkamp. A small

flurry of excitement when Martin Keown appears, but I know absolutely nothing about Keown, so continue to hang about watching Seaman and the trolleys (good name for a band). He has just come back

from "stretching" - and I am just plucking up the courage to warn him against this

rash practice ("You already bang your head on door frames!") when Wenger finally emerges and gives a thoughtful Gallic-yet-Socratic seminar on the nature of disappointment and the importance of courage.

He speaks softly, but beau-

The main interest of course, is in the match with Blackburn Rovers today. Mention Chris Sutton. who gained a reputation as an arch-transgressor of sports-manship in this fixture last season, and the sky goes black. "Yes, if I told you ! forgot that match, it would be a lie," Wenger said, with the expressive built-in shrug that

he shares with Roud Gullit.

tifully, in an accent that makes

you want to ask: "Can you say

Thank heaven for little girls.

Monsieur Wenger? Sav 'Ah

yes, I remember it well'." But.

instead one leans forward

of Maurice Chevalier's straw

boater out of one's mind.

"But it's the wrong way to go into the match, to think of that, if the players think i must kick Chris Sutton', that's the best way to lose the game. Though I still think what he did was wrong."

attentively and puts thoughts As they pass through from the stretching rooms - we are not invited in - the players do not look like the sort of people who would kick anybody. It is a real privilege to see them like this. Even Tony Adams looks pleasant but it's all a bit unreal. Somewhere, someone is saying: "Take this sandwich and glass of orange to Dennis Bergkamp," or: "Tony Adams does not wish to see the wine list." How very circular life

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### Mew makes waves for younger generation

THE pressure on older swimmers either to reinvent themselves or retire gathered pace at the British national championships in Sheffield yesterday as teenagers Helen Don-Duncan and Darren Mew added their names to the book of national senior records.

Don-Duncan's 2min 13.82sec in the 200 metres backstroke came at the expense of two experienced internationals, and Mew's 28.58sec over 50 metres breaststroke was a fitting eighteenth birthday present for a man who has proved he can travel through water faster than former world beaters Adrian Moorhouse and Nick Gillingham

As Deryk Snelling, Britain's national performance director, put it with a smile and a keen eye on the world championships next month: "This'll knock on the door of the older athletes, who will have to decide whether they're in or out from now on."

Neither were rested from heavy training nor affected by the experienced internationals in the lanes next to them. Don-Duncan, 16. led her race from start to finish and stopped the clock 0.09sec inside the previous British record, set by Joanne Deakins in 1992.

Deakins, 25, could manage only 2min 17 losec yesterday. for third place behind Kathy Osher (2:16.72), who, at 28, has more national swimming titles to her name than any other British swimmer. Their young challenger from Ashton Central swam into waters unchartered by them yester day to rise into the top 20 in

For Mew, his 50 metres effort in itself counted for less than for the promise it holds for his 100 metres swim. Originally from the Isle of Wight and now at the University of Bath, Mew collected his first national senior title on Thursday over 100 metres, a distance which, unlike the 50 metres, is raced at the world championships and Olympic Games and forms part of the 4 x 100 metres medley relay. Mew's 100 metres time, however, does not yet reflect the speed that yesterday's 50 metres effort would indicate he is capable of. The same was ever true of the now-retired James Parrack, the man whose record he broke by 0.05sec yesterday, and Mew will need to improve his stamina to lift himself among the world's best and carry the mantle of a great British breaststroke tradition worn by Gillingham and Moorhouse

James Hickman, fresh from his world-class victory in the 200 metres butterfly on Thursday, returned to the fray yesterday to win the 100 metres butterfly in 53.76sec, well inside the world championship qualifying standard. His main rival. Stephen Parry, of Liverpool, already selected for Perth, could be excused a sluggish third place he had got off a plane from the United States two hours before his

morning heat swim. Parry had not had time to rest because of early finals but at least he made the race. Martin Harris had not noticed that schedules were early because of television coverage and appeared on the deck after his national title over the 100 metres backstroke had passed to Neil Willey.

If there is evidence that standards in British swimming are on the up, it is perhaps most obvious at the moment in the number of swimmers now challenging for places on relay teams that have genuine medal prospects on a world stage. The women's 200 metres

freestyle yesterday saw Vicki Horner, Jessica Craig and Karen Legg add their names to the world championship roster. The race saw Claire Huddart, of Leeds, collect her second national title of the championships, in 2min 01.67sec, though she and Karen Pickering had already been selected for Perth. Mark Stevens, in winning the 100 metres freestyle 50.66sec. will also travel to Perth as a member of the men's 4 x 100 metres freestyle



Help from the aged: Ripley takes the strain yesterday as the Boat Race candidates go through their paces

#### Believe it or not — it's Ripley Matt Dickinson traces a rugby

hen middle-aged restlessness began to gnaw at Andy Ripley, his wife's response was: "Go and buy yourself a fast motorbike, dear." Ripley, though — to the surprise of no one who ever saw him in an England rugby shirt decided that, even at 50, he still had enough horsepower of his own.

Enough, he believed, to become the oldest oarsman in the 168-year history of the Boat Race, which was why he was in Putney yesterday trying to squeeze his 1612 st into some rather unflattering Lycra, The event has seen many oddities in its long, glorious past, but never a 50year-old back-row forward in a skintight one-piece. That he will fall short of

the ultimate goal of rowing for Cambridge is, barring a mutiny, almost certain. There will probably have to be men overboard for him even to make the reserves. But that is not the point. 6am weights sessions, the legend's remarkable conversion

the final 24 yesterday, Ripley has already defied the expectations of experienced coaches, sceptical crew-mates and, most of all, the march of "Put it this way," Ripley.

who has interrupted a successful career in the City to study a one-year MPhil in trade economics, said, "most of these lads were not even born in 1974 when I was playing for the British Lions. I've got a 17-year-old son for goodness sake. He should be here, not me." It is a tribute to Ripley's

zest and enduring youth that, as he sat in the boathouse, his fresh-faced colleagues chuntering about girlfriends and parties, the happily married father of three was treated as one of the gang, to be sworn at and joked with in equal measure. "There is no room for

know the minute I slow them down I will be out, but I'm still hanging in there now." If age was not problem enough as he sweated through one of the most

punishing training regimes in sport, Ripley had not even sat in a boat until 18 months ago. While Cambridge's German oarsman, Marc Weber, was celebrating an Olympic gold medal last summer, Ripley was finish-ing 55th in the Nottingham Head of the River - out of 55. Six minutes slower than the field after capsizing twice, the stewards feared he had drowned.

He was not put off, but then he would not be. At the age of 18. Ripley picked up a rugby ball for the first time. Ten years later he owned 24 England caps.

The force, of the brute variety, was with him when gruelling intensity of ten-mile outings and still be in a rowing boat," he said. "I ergometer times have consis-

tently been in the squad's top

He has enjoyed one of the most colourful careers of any heroics of the 1974 Lions in South Africa, defeat by Alan Pascoe in the British 400 metres hurdles finals, British Universities basketball, elite canoeing, top-class rugby with Rosslyn Park until he was 41 . . . even the loss of the Superstars world championship, which involved the unlikely mix of Jody Schekter, the Formula One legend, and a pair of trainers soaked in wax.

While Ripley's oak tree thighs struggled gamely through the squat thrust round, Scheckter slid his lubricated feet up and down like a demented rabbit to the outrage of millions of viewers. Ripley never recovered, and finished joint second. It was a story that drew

blank faces from his Cambridge crew-mates this week, too young to appreciate that they were with a sporting phenomenon. That, though, is how Ripley prefers it. Just one of the lads.

#### ROWING

#### Williams enjoys tactical battle

By MIKE ROSEWELL

ROBIN WILLIAMS, the Cambridge University coach. and his two trial eights. Juniper and Angelica, gained much more from their efforts yesterday than their Oxford counterparts did on Thursday. Wildly different conditions over the course, a little bit of the unexpected and the need for quick tactical decisions produced a useful day for 13 Britons, two Germans, a Canadian, and Austrian and a South Africa, nine of whom were experiencing a Boat Race scenario for the first time.

Juniper, stroked by Brad Crombie, the Canada international, won by 32 lengths (18min 41sec), a comfortable margin. "It would be nice to have had a close race," Williams said, "but I wanted to get information and I got a lot

Juniper won the toss and chose Surrey, which gave them marginally less sea-like conditions around the Fulham bend, where Angelica shipped water, leaving them a length down at the Mile. Jupiter had clear water as the course flattened approaching Ham-mersmith Bridge, but the crews were then faced with the unexpected — a moored safety barge across the preferred

Both coxes opted to pass it wide on Middlesex. Suzie El-lis, of Angelica, then quickly swung to Surrey, called for effort, and brought her crew swiftly back. Alistair Potts, her rival, saw the danger, curved across Angelica's bows, missing by inches, and, in Potts's words: "Shut the door to terminate them."

☐ The third Cambridge crew with Andy Ripley, the 50-year-old former England rugby union player on board, were 55sec slower than Juniper.

threstranser and St Combines; 7, 1 H Brun (Eton and Jesus); Stroke, T J Wallace (King Edward VI, Southampton and Jesus); Cox, S K Elilis (Abbots Bromley School and denates Skie

SNOOKER

#### Hamilton pushes Higgins to the last

FROM PHILY ITES

FOLLOWING the example of Ken Doherty and Ronnie
O'Sullivan, John Higgins ne goriated a deciding frame to survive the quarter-finals of the German Open here vesterday.

Higgins, determined to ease the painful memory of his surprise defeat by Gary Ponting in the second round of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship, beat Anthony Hamilton 5-1.

The Scot, who won the maugural staging of the event in Frankfurt two years ago. now plays O'Sullivan, who fortuitously defeated Tony Drago 5-4 on Thursday by fluking the final black to a top corner pocket.

Ronnie is on the crest of a

wave and he'll be favourite but, if I play well, I fancy beating him." Higgins said.

Leading 2-1, thanks to breaks of 91 and 61. Higgins ran out of position on the run of 57 with which he opened the scoring in the fourth frame. Hamilton fought back eventually to steal it on the black before moving 3-2 ahead with a 67 break.

Hamilton appeared capable of being victorious in his debut in the quarter-finals of a world ranking event but, helped by contributions of 46. 30 and 66. Higgins dominated the follow ing two frames.

Hamilton, for whom a significant breakthrough has been predicted for some time, carried the match its full distance by winning the eighth but was never in contention as Higgins tactically controlled the decider.

While Higgins possesses more patience than O'Sullivan he does not at the moment enjoy the fine edge of self-belief which was such a leature of his play when winning five ranking competitions during a 16-month golden spell between the 1994 Grand Prix and the 1996 International

The legal wranglings, which have become a by-product of professional snooker's intensifying political rift, rumbled on yesterday when it was announced that Jim McKenzie, controversially dismissed as chief executive of the worka Ptolessional Billiaras and Snooker Association, has issued a writ against his former employers.

#### FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final, first leg: London Towers 76 Lecester

HIGHTS 74 EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Group A: CSKA EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Group A: CSNA Moscow (Russ) 83 Umoges (Fr) 70; Marcab Tel Avr. (Ig. 61 Eles Pison (Tur) 70. Olymplatos Piraeus (Gr) 82 Real Madrid (Sp) 76 Group B: Benedlon Trovso (Il) 65 PACK Salomka (Gr) 57 Group C: Hapoet Jerusalem (Isr) 67 Pau-Orthez (Fr) 79, Partizon Belgrade (Fr) 49 Kinder Bologna (II) 74; Barcetona (Sp) 89 Ulkerspo: (Tur) 90 Group D: Chorna Zagreb (Cro) 67 AEY. Athens (Gr) 63; PSG Racing (Fr) 84 Teams/stem Bologna (II) 60 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA). Detroit 103 New Jersey 99, New York 107 Membersia 103; Orlando 100 Dallas 90; Cleveland 79 Milwaukse 77, Phoems 94 Atlanta 78

**BOWLS** 

COATERIDGE: Scottish Indoor championship: Final: A Syme txt P Forster 7-5, 5-7, 4-7, 7-2, 7-2

Champions Trophy

Pakistan v West Indies SHARJAH (West Indies won toss) West Indies boat Pakistan by 43 runs WEST INDIES

P Wallace of Inzanam b Sacjam S C Williams of Wagim b Shahed B C Lara of Adhar b Wagim b Shahed B C Lara of Adhar b Wagim C L Hooper st Moni b Sacjam P V Sammons of Aamer b Sacjam S Chanderpoul not out .

F A Rose b Wasim ID Williams of and b Wasim P R Laws not out. Extras (b 1, 45 6, w 12 nb 1).

POWILING Wasin Arram 10-0-52-2, Wasar Yourin 10-0-53-0, Saglain Mushtan 10-0-35-3; Arram Mahmood 10-0-61-0, Shahid Alnch 10-0-57-1

Aarner Schall o Lewis to Rose Shahed Afholi run our Seedd Armeir o Lara ti Dillon Ijaz Ahmed o Hooper ti Lewis Inzaman-ul-Hag run our Akhtar Sartroz Iberb Simmons "Wasim Algam c Chanderpaul b Wals! Main Khan run out Act-ar Maternood c Summons b Wakh Saolain Musriag not out \_ ... -Wagar Youns c Wallace b Hooper Ermas (No 8, w 7, no 4) . . .

BOWLING Wash 8-0-14-2 Rose 6-0-47-1; Dillon 8-0-45-1; Hooper 9-0-56-1; Lewis 8-1-31-1, Sermons 7-0-31-1 Urrigues C J Mitchley (South Africa) and 8 C Coorey (Sn Lunka)

Under-19 international South Africa v England CAPE TOWN (second day of loss) England Under-19 with five first-raings wickels of hand, are 249 runs behind South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA: First Intarqs SOUTH AFRICAC PUST IT and A Putilich o Polers is Franks...
A Gail o Flamegan is Swarm
Jida Nobroga is Franks...
M Street o and is Swarm
Hill year Wyle is Franks.
G Elbott not out.
M Lamb is Swarm
J Rudolph is Franks.
II Greed of Maywood Edras (b 6, lb 12, w 5 rb 10) . . . . . 35 Total (8 wkts dec)

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12, 2-12, 3-131. 4-154, 5-164, 6-203, 7-302, 8-450 BOWLING Logan 29 5-5-104-0; Franks 35-9-65-4. Naper 14-1-71-0; Schofield 17-1-69-0; Swann 43-5-139-3; Haywood 7-0-36-1

ENGLAND: First immings Extras (0.4, fb.1, w.3, nb.6)

FALL OF WICKETS 1-14, 2-44, 3-90, 4-106, 5-107

BOWLING Mortsang 10-1-51-0; Greed 8-1-29-2; Lumb 9-1-38-2; Peterson 9-4-18-1; Rudolph 5-1-14-0. Rudoipt: 5-1-14-0. Umpres: P Reypert and J Palekar WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Madrast Den-mais 56-7 (B McDoradi 3-12, 23 overs); reland 57-1; 19 1 overs); fersand wint by nine wickets. New Delhit; South Alnoa 163-9 ft. Oliwer 51; 50 overs); Australia 166-0 (B Clark, 95 not out, J Broadbert 58 not out. 25 5 overs). Australia win by ten wickets

PUSSEN, Germany: European champlon-ships: Challenge round: Merr: Norway 8 France 5 Wates 7 England 6. Women: Notance 10 Finland 9; England 5 Lucem-bourg 4 Quarter-finels: Women: Sweden 9 Scotland 1, Switzerland 7 Finland 9, Dennash 12 Norway 4 England 2 Ger-many 8

FOOTBALL

CONFEDERATIONS' CUP: Saudi Araba 0 Brazil 3, Australia 3 Mandeo 1 (boilt in Ryadh)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second round draw: Southern section: Fuhrar v Wycombe Wanderera, Luton v Breniford: Wasall v Brighton: Bournernouln v Leyton Oneni, Swansoe v Peterborough: Northampton v Torquay; Bristol City v Mahvall Eviter v Bristol Rowers: Northern section: Blackgool v York, Gransby v Hull City, Lansfield v Winerhem, Wygan v Rotherhem; Carisse v Rochdale, Burnley v Nots County, Macclosheld v Presion, Hartlepool v Soundroppe

pe Fsday's late results TRUNSday 3 late results
UEFA CUP: Third round, second leg: VIL
Bochum 2 Apx 2 (Apar win 6-1 on agg)
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying
round: GL Harwood 0 Winton 1
AVON INSUFFANCE COMBINATION: First
division: Norwich 1 Chekea 1
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Everton
1 Stoke 1: Action Ville 4 Librerpool 1,
Blackburn 3 Manchester Utd 1, Leede 3
Trannege 1 (at Halday Town FC)

HANDBALL

BONN: Women's world chempionship: Quarter-finals: Germany 24 Macedonia 19; Narway 27 Korea 21; Denmark 25 Crogda 21, Hussay 24 Poland 19 Drews Germany v Norway, Denmark v Russia

EXPRESS CUP: Newcastle Cobras 1 Cardill Devila 5 NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 2 Buffalo 1. Si Louis 2 Ottaws 1: Philadelphia 4 NY Islanders 3

ICE HOCKEY

**ICE SKATING** HULL: British sentor championships: Compulsory dance 1 equal, R Chrobo-kova and J Lenning (Shrechtern), and Cements and G Shorthand (Slough) 0.6, 3, S kerr and J Feguson (Lervikil) 1.2, 4, P Common and J Feguson (Lervikil) 1.2, 4, P Common and J Chrobother (Statishing) NORDIC SKIING

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colorado: World Cup (90-metre jump tanking, 7-9/m race ranking) 1, H Manninen (Fin. 8, 4); 2, B E Vis (Not, 5, 10), 1 4-sec behand, 3, M Stecher (Austria, 1, 24), 16-1, 4, G Myhrine (Not, 26, 1), 17-2; 5, S. Lajunen (Fin. 5, 17), 18-0 HARRACHOV, Czech Republic: World Cup (19-9), nill), 1, M Harada (Japan), 248 5pts (95-5m, 94m), 2 equal P Peter's (Soverna), 244 (95, 91), 0 Thoma (Garl 244 (95, 94.6); 4, A Widthoald (Austria), 237 5 (2, 90.5); 5, H Sairo (Japan), 237 (94.5, 88.5); 6, S Homgacher (Austria), 232 (92.5, 88.5).

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: Third round: RGS High Wycombe 13 Pargloome 7. Other matches: Seven-gals: 17 Wyntherg (SA 15 Car of Landon Freeman's 53 F.CS Wimbledon 7.

SNOOKER BINGEN: German Open: Quarter-finals: O'Sullivan (Eng) to A Drago (Matta) 5-4 Dohany (Ive) bt J Burnett (Scot) 5-4. Higgins (Scot) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 5-4

HONG KONG: Pak Fah Yeow world doubles chempionships: Mixed quarter-finals; England (C Walker and C Jackman) br United States 15-6, 15-3, Canada of Malaysia 15-10, 15-11; South Ainca of Hong kong 15-13, 15-13, Australia of New Zealand 11-15, 15-11 15-13 Fifth qualifying round: Men: Group A New Zealand 11-15, 15-13 Malaysia br Singspare 15-11, 15-8, South Almos br Scotland (A Thompson and G Sworth 15-11, 15-8 Group B: Australe br Pelvistan 14-17, 15-7, 15-13 Malaysia br 15-12, 17-6 Women: Group A South Alma br Australia 12-15, 17-7, 15-13 Malaysia br Canada 15-8, 15-17, 15-13 Malaysia br Canada 15-8, 15-17, 15-13 Malaysia br Canada 15-12, 17-16 Group Br New Zealand br England Jackman and SWingth 15-9, 15-11; Hong English Swight 15-9, 15-11

SWIMMING

PONDS FORGE, Sheffield: ASA national writer champlonships: Merr 400m free-style: 1, P Pairsar (University of Bath) 2mm 54 39sec: 2, G. Smah (Shob-port Medo) 357 43 50m backstroker 1 th Hams (Tower Hamlets) 26 77sec: 2, N. Wiley (Barnet Cophosit) 26 94: 3, A. O'Cannot the 27-26 100m breaststroker: 1, D. Mcv. (University of Bath): 102-51; 7. R. Maden (Rochosie Apusbears): 10-36 200m butterfly: 1, J. Hickman (Stockpot Metro): 1 mm 63 33sec: 2, G. Brontel (University of Bath): 10-251; 7. R. Maden (Rochosie Apusbears): 10-36 200m butterfly: 1, J. Hickman (Stockpot Metro): 1 mm 63 33sec: Women: 100m fnostyle: 1, C. Huddan (Chye Leeds): 57 19sec: 2, R. Pedering (powert): 57 4: 3, M. Marshall (South Lincohishee): 57 62, 50m breaststroker: 1, K. Osher (Bating): 30 32 30cc: 2, K. Jöggins (Norwich Perguni): 20-44; 3, 3. Proc (Bating): Copholishing (powerth): 6 8ath; 231 91; 3, H. Earto (Newcastle: Sacts): 233 40: 400m medley: 1, H. Cema (Dz. 4mm 40 87 sec: 2, S. Nosbet: (Partermoth): Northsaaj, 452,77, 3, 1 Geny (Bel, 457 32) 4min 40 97sec: 2, S Nasbit (Partsmouth Northsau) 4-52,77, 3, 1 Carry (Bel) 4-57-33

WEIGHTLIFTING

CHANG MAI, Thailand: World champson-ships: Merc 686g; 1 A Colaib (Po?) statem 1725, jark 207 5, bital 360; 2 D Scientifical 170 205, 375, 3 K. Sembon (Pol) 165, 207 5, 3725, 914g; 1 V Vazarque (Mol) 175, 2125, 3675, 2, 5 Epub (Fors.) 175, 205, 360 (Wormen: 70kg; 1 - Xiang Fengian (Crinal) 105, 136, 235, 2, Huang Hold, 247, 5 (world record), 25, 27, 26, 27, 27, 140, 247, 5 (world record), 25, 27, 27, 31, Taxard 100 (world record), 25, 27, 31, Taxard 100 (world record), 25, 275, 3, M Taxard

### SPORT IN BRIEF

#### French fail in campaign for grand prix return

**MOTOR RACING:** The FIA, the sport's governing body, yesterday turned down a French Government appeal to have the French Grand Prix reinstated into the Formula One calendar next season. The FIA said that it had not received the guarantees it had demanded from the Government over relevision coverage. A FIA spokesman added: "If the grand prix was to be reinstated, that would make it 17 races next season and that would pose a huge problem for the teams." The Government said that it had not given up hope.

The FIA also announced that the Spanish town of Jerez would not host another grand prix next season — because of the bad behaviour of its mayor. "The Jerez mayor, along with several other local dignitaries, caused a disturbance at the prizegiving ceremony for the 1997 European Grand Prix which inconvenienced those handing out the trophies," the FIA said in

#### Honour for Rusedski

TENNIS: Greg Rusedski received the player of the year trophy at the inaugural Lawn Tennis Association awards at the All-England Club, Wimbledon, last night. Rusedski's award, made at the annual dinner of the Lawn Tennis Writers' Association, was among 12 presented by the LTA to recognise outstanding achievement in various areas of the sport. Sir Geoffrey Cass, president of the LTA, said: "Greg has been a wonderful inspiration for the whole of British tennis this year. As well as his marvellous victories we have also admired his commitment to give something back to the fans whenever he has the chance."

OTHER WINNERS: Coach: Ian Bardby Junior player. Hannah Collin. Disabled player: Janet McMorran Official: Alan Mills Indoor centre. Notingham Tournement. Notingham Open Local authority. Manchester School: Carigat Newscasie High. Club: Boston LTC. County: Hampshee and the Isle of Wight. Junior aces club: Locy of Muswell.

#### Scotland secure world berth

CURLING: Scotland beat England 9-1 to make sure of finishing in the top six at the European championships in Fussen. Germany yesterday and securing their place at the world championships in Canada (Bill Melville writes). The English and the Welsh men - beaten 6-4 by Switzerland now face uphill struggles against Norway and Finland respectively to win the final reserved European places at Kamloops in April. The Welsh men failed to capture the form that had embarrassed Sweden, the world champions, but again took superior opposition to a full ten ends of play.

#### Sturgeon a doubtful starter

CYCLING: Carl Sturgeon is not optimistic about holding his lead in the penultimate round of the National Trophy cyclo-cross series at Leicester tomorrow (Peter Bryan writes). A heavy cold has left him unable to train this week. He will leave the decision whether to compete until tomorrow morning. If Sturgeon fails to start, the main beneficiary could be Barrie Clarke, the defending competition champion and British title holder. He goes to the line four points behind Sturgeon's aggregate of 94, with Gary Foord on 80 and Stuart Blunt on 73.

#### **ICE SKATING**

### Slough samba hits mark

ALTHOUGH the British Olympic Association's ruling that those wanting to compete at the forthcoming Winter Olymnic Games must prove they are capable of finishing among the leading 50 per cent in their event could leave British skating with a team of one, there was no shortage of enthusiasm from both competitors and spectators as the Tesa British Senior champion-

ships began in Hull yesterday. The withdrawal from the pairs event of Lesley Rogers and Michael Aldred, champions on three occasions, and the separation of Marika Humphreys and Philip Askew, twice ice-dance champions, could have put a damper on things, but the remaining skaters completed the first half of their respective events with undiminished

Ice dance is the only discipline in figure skating to retain three sections -compulsories, original and free - and will be all the more interesting this season as the International Skating Union (ISU) is allowing vocal music BY ANGELA COURT

Courtney Jones, the former world ice-dance champion who is a member of the ISU dance committee, said: "We're looking at all sorts of ways of being innovative about ice dance as a whole. We thought allowing vocals would add a new dimension and from what we've seen in international events so far it appears to have worked. Audiences seem to enjoy participating."

dances, Radmila Chrobokova and Justin Lanning were tied with Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, of Slough. Chrobokova and Lanning performed above expectations in the golden waltz and moved

After the two compulsory

say: "It was the best I've seen them skate." originates from the Czech Republic, the country she represented, with Miln Brzy, in

for the original dance — the

their coach, Diane Towler, to

If experience counts for anything, they should come out on top and take over as Britain's leading dancers. Chrobokova

the 1994 Olympic Games. Lanning, 24, won the British ice-dance title in 1992 with Humphreys and competed in the world championships in both 1993 and 1994. They have been together for just under lo months and commute daily for training. "It just feels great to be back 🦃

in contention," Lanning said.
"We were fourth last year at our first attempt together, but this year is a different matter." For Clements, 18, and Shortland. 21. being in joint first place in their first senior championship together is quite a fear. They won the second compulsory dance, the

silver samba, and even scored This couple won at junior level in 1994 but went their separate ways before reforming their partnership a year ago. "We felt very relaxed on the samba." Shortland said.

"It's an easier dance for us." Sinead Kerr. from Linx. Aberdeen, and Jamie Fergu-son, of Altrincham, lay third of the five couples competing going into last night's original dance section.

CRICKET

### Swann's grace may be wasted

THE LOSS of Graeme Swann only eight balls before the close left England Under-19 in trouble at the end of the second day of the first Test against South Africa in Cape

Town (John Stern writes). The Northamptonshire allrounder, who had earlier completed 43 overs of off spin in South Africa's first innings of 504 for eight declared, batted beautifully during his innings of 75. His half-century was reached with the third of three consecutive cover drives off Robbie Petersen.

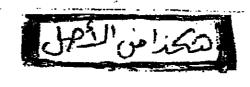
However, he did bat, as did some of his team-mates, as if it were a limited-overs contest and his efforts may now count for nought considering that England still require 200 more runs to avoid the follow-on. Swann was fifth out with the score on 155 when he was well caught by Matthew Street, the South Africa captain, at short extra cover as he drove uppishly off the back foot. Robert Key, the opening

batsman gave his wicket cheaply, playing a rather halfhearted cut shot, which was caught by Street at third slip. Perhaps the apparent strength of feeling between the

sides was causing the sap to rise to an unhealthy level. On one occasion, umpire Pat Reypter spoke to Street after Swann had withdrawn from the crease before two consecutive deliveries, objecting to the loquacity of his opponents huddled around the bat.

England's opening bowlers. Paul Franks and Richard Logan, had a relatively new ball with which to bowl yesterday morning and they maintained a tight line early on, However, they were unable to prevent Grant Ellion, resuming on \$5. reaching his century and after lunch the South Africans scored 104 runs in an hour.

Elliott progressed towards 2 double century, the last fifty of which came from only 39 balls. Two superbly timed lofted on-drives off Logan in three balls posted his team's 500 and then his own 200, a milestone that prompted the



FOOTBALL

Nigeria

ignore

**Venables** 

as coach

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NIGERIA are expected to

announce that Bora Milut-

inovic, the former Mexico

coach, will take charge of their side in the World Cup finals.

so ending speculation that they would turn to Terry Venables, the former England

coach. The decision is depen-

dent on the final approval of General Sani Abacha, the

If approved, Milutinovic

would be Nigeria's fourth

coach in 20 months. The Olympic gold medal-winners

have been without a manager

since Philippe Troussier left in

Nigerian Football Association

favoured Jo Bonfrere, the

Dutch coach, but feared

Abacha would refuse to accept

him. Bonfrere coached Nigeria to their Olympic victory in

Atlanta but then resigned

Milutinovic was dismissed as coach of Mexico last month,

less than a month after help-

ing them to clinch a place in

attempt to take Australia to the finals, is under contract

with them until next July, but

the Soccer Australia said it

would allow him time off to

lead the Nigerians through

Venables, who failed in his

shortly afterwards.

the World Cup finals.

It is understood that the

country's ruler.

### Challenge match fails acid test

tremes of performance capable when playing Sunday league football while roaring drunk suddenly takes a speciacular turn when a man ups the stakes and tells of a match played while tripping on LSD. He is neither smug nor superior about his ill-advised chemical intake, but merely offers it up as another colour to add to the palette of complete soccer research.

lamilton

hits mad

as be wast

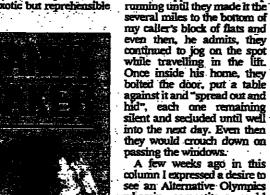
Apparently, the most notable thing for him and his five friends - all of whom had nibbled at the blotter - was the shared image that the grass on which they played was made of thousands of looped rubber bands. Also the ball, when it travelled through the air, left a Day-Glo wash in its wake, which I found rather a hoary piece of imagery but one that he assured me was true.

He also recalled that the holes in the net could be stretched until the net itself gaped in places like a clipper ship's sails blasted by cannon balls", and his turn in goal was so marked by his intense interest in this phenomenon that when the ball eventually struck him on the back of the head, it took all his concentration to shake off the idea that he was being attacked by

The whole psychedelic kick-

radio phone in on about was being experienced the subject of exmight have remained a private occasion had the six not noticed another group of fellows making a noise on the far side. These chaps, they reasoned, were doubtless also in an altered state and it made perfect sense to approach them and get a proper match

> As it turned out, this new group were out of their minds. but from cider and vodka, not-LSD, so it was a straight matter of Drunks against Acid Heads, surely one of the most exotic but reprehensible



see an Alternative Olympics wherein competitors could feel free to take whatever drug they chose, so long as it made them better athletes. After the tale of the Great Technicolour Fiasco in the Park, I have a depressing idea that such an event, however interesting it appears on paper, might be

looks like the action of kicking away a

blind man's stick or taking three

I mean, how on earth am I

supposed to react to his latest cack-

handed attempt at getting my atten-

tion? I suppose you saw it. Hot on the heels of the humiliating mollycod-

dling of his squad of Grown Men Who Had To Play In Some Snow, he

now screams like the pepper-doused baby in Alice in Wonderland,

because Sky TV have asked his outfit

of coiffeured coxcombs to kick off

points off Everton.

we will never know the out-

come, because all went ac-cording to form and cliche.

The Drunks, playing with

bottles gripped grimly at the

neck, were so noisy and ag-

gressive that the Trippers

became convinced they would

eventually turn cannibal and murder them where they

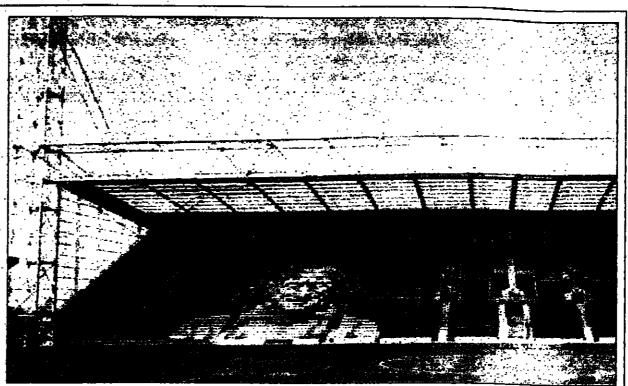
stood. Consequently, on a given signal, the Trippers fled

the field. The Drunks, it

seems, thought the Trippers were making off with their

The Trippers did not stop

coats and gave chase.



Preston North End's Deepdale, which features an impression of Tom Finney, is among the stadiums to have suffered Though I'm aware that

it is tantamount to encouraging law-breaking. I must say that I thoroughly approve of the spate of breakins at football grounds by selfstyled "guerrilla artists". What these dotty daubers do is sneak in to stadiums at night and, with paint and fabric, corrupt the words and images that are formed by the coloured seats in modern

هكذامن ريامل

stands. So whereas at Ibrox you once looked upon the immense word "RANGERS" spelt out in white plastic chairs, apparently, at the mo-ment, it says "BANGERS". Now many feel that creating "BANGERS" was hardly

Terrace artists decide to break new ground worth the risk and effort new West Terrace. But surely involved, but from the mo-

ment I heard about it I wept with laughter. Less clear is why at Southampton the words "THE DELL" have overnight been shaped into "THEM BEE", or West Brom's "WBA" became Brom's

More success was had at Middlesbrough, where "BORO" was briefly "BOOO!", and it must've been the work of a moment to create "FULL CITY" in Hull's before the next home fixture,

Chelsea stage volte-face over fans

not even the crotchetiest official - and clubs are invoking all kinds of safety scare stories to try to wipe the smile from the public's face on this one can stifle a smile on hearing the news that Tom Finney. whose immense profile is picked out in black and white

today sports a striking pair of red drop-earrings. Staff at the ground say the "defilement" will be erased

at Preston's new stadium.

but if I were them I wouldn't be too hasty. Let us see whether the earrings affect form first. Who knows, the cheerful sight of an old warhorse camped up in cheap dress jewellery might be just the spur this once mighty old club needs to look to the future, even if engaged on a purely superstitious level.

Finally, while I'm sure these maverick performers must have their own agenda. they may like to know that at my own club the words "THE DEN" are marked in yellow seats on a blue background. and that the second turnstile along at the South Stand

the World Cup competition. Venables yesterday led Australia to a 3-1 victory over Mexico, under their new coach, Manuel Lapuente, in their opening match in the Confederations Cup in Riyadh. Brazil beat Saudi Arabia 3-0 in the other match.

Tunisia, one of England's group opponents in the World Cup, have agreed to play Wales in the build-up to next year's finals. The Tunisians. whose only other World Cup finals apperance was in Argentina in 1978, see Wales as ideal opponents in preparation for their match against

Glenn Hoddle's side. The Tunisian Football Federation has also arranged matches with Chile and Paraguay, which it believes are similar in style to their other group opponents, Colombia and Romania.

#### Giggs cuts corners in motorway madness

that, should it be unearthed by some alien visitor hundreds of years after the bomb has wiped out all human life, will superbly illustrate what a shallow load of crackpots with too much time on our hands.

It is the audio edition of Ryan Giggs's book, My Own Story. Think about it. Ryan Giggs's splendidly thin and vacant autobiography, which was not written by Ryan Giggs, can now be purchased in cassette form not read by Ryan Giggs.

At a service station on Of course, I snap up this the MII I find an item priceless piece of pure apple priceless piece of pure apple sauce and intend to gaze upon it whenever my mood needs a little lift.

The experience is made just a little giddler when, that very same day, I watch a portion of Panorama's breathless special looking into whether big business and commercial concerns are overwhelming football.

Perhaps this sharp witted programme's ideas team might be interested in a similar expose examining whether the Earth revolves

Honestly, if Ken Bates doesn't start making an effort to look their FA Cup tie against Manchester United - a dignified team of profeslike legitimate opposition, there seems to be little point in our having a sinnals - at noon instead of 3pm. "I can't think of one good reason why we should," the old blowhard fend at all. As it is, anything I write about him and his toffee-nosed team

says. Well, how bout that enormous pile of cash Cheisea are happy to trouser from Sky each season, Kenny boy! Give it back to them and kick off any time you like, my old lookalike for the captain of the Titanic!

But, as usual, it's the fans that Ken's heart bleeds for. "We have many out-of-town supporters," The Man With Moss Chops weeps, "how will it affect them?" These would be the same outof-town supporters that Ken recommended high-voltage fences to keep in line just over a decade ago, would it? Really, the more Ken and his best

friend David "The Footy Fan's Friend!" Mellor seek to speak for the ordinary fans", the more they look like the Princess Royal posing behind a till in Tescos.

Besides, midday kick-off on a Sunday? Who minds that? Where have these out-of-town fans got to come from - Havana? I know it's another argument altogether but, frankly, clubs aren't entitled to "out-

of town supporters". When I become Minister for Sport, I shall make it the work of my every waking hour to get through Parlia-ment a Bill imposing on the spot fines for any person wearing a football shirt of a club outside a ten-mile radius of their home address. The fine may be waived if the individual

produces a birth certificate to show the garment is worn for sentimental reasons or if the wearer is, in fact, a professional footballer fulfilling an away fixture. Otherwise, the sting of a £500 penalty should test the shallow loyalties of these disgusting arrivistes. Meanwhile, Kenny B is probably

taking this latest slap in the face to the European Court of Human Rights, while I should be very interested to see just how many sunbed centres and beauty parlours in regions where Chelsea players live have suddenly received cancellations to their regular Sunday morning appointments.

□ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from

### 7 Daniels speeds to maiden century against Pakistan

IN VIJAYAYADA

A HOPELESSLY one-sided match ended with England securing their second successive victory in the women's World Cup yesterday and Pakistan perhaps wishing that they had remained in Lahore: Centuries by Jan Brittin and Barbara Daniels helped Eng-

land to a massive 376 for two in their 50 overs, surpassing the previous highest total in-World Cup matches - 297 for five by New Zealand against Holland at Eden Park - and Pakistan could only manage

146 for three in reply.

An opening stand of 83 in just over 15 overs between Helen Plimmer (36) and Brittin was an appetiser, before Brittin and Daniels feasted on a succession of longhops and half-volleys.

The landmarks were reached with a speed and precision out of character with life in India: the hundred in the twentieth over; 200 in the thirtieth and 300 in the 41st. By the time that Brittin was out shortly before that final milestone - stumped aiming for her eighteenth boundary -she had added 203 for the second wicket with Daniels, at considerably more than a run a ball. "It was hard going out there," she said. "The wicket was very true, but the heat was intense. I was just pleased

craft and determination, Daniels's was a triumph of enterprise and wit. She needed only 103 balls to score 142 not out, including 17 fours and a six, her maiden one-day international hundred.

If Brittin's was an innings of

to stay out there."

The Indira Gandhi stadium

Brittin hits another boundary on her way to scoring 138 during England's victory over Pakistan yesterday

in Vijayawada had never before staged a recognised interwere impeccable.

There was never any hope of

national match and, at times, the organisers' inexperience showed. A dozen scorers came up with a dozen different scores, and it took a good deal of plea bargaining to come up with the definitive total at the end. The facilities, however,

SCOREBOARD FROM VIJAYAVADA

J Brittin at Asma b Shaga ... H Plimmer at Asma b Kiran Echas (04. b 6. w 14. nb 1) ..... Total (2 with, 50 dward) ... † J. Casser, "K. Smithles, M. Reynard, B. Nicholson, C. Connor, C. Taylor and L. And and the not bee. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-286. 90M MG: Statzen Khan 10-0-84-0; Haider Hussam 9-0-87-0; Shaza Khan 9-0-64-1; Kiran Bakich 10-0-73-1; Nazie Sackt 6-1-8-0; Mohera Mirwella 7-0-53-0.

Manha Hissanin b Reymard 13.
"Shareen Khan c and b Reymard 41
(Kran Baluch b Connor 22
Sheiza Khan not out 35
?Aama Fazzand not out 13
Dozes (b 5, b 4, w 12, nb 1) 22 Nazia Sadiq, Mehere Mirwalia, Diba Sherazi, Shazia Kassan, Badiat Bano and Nazia Yabasaam did not bat. FALL OF MICKETS: 1-67, 2-78, 3-122: BOMING: Taylor 7-3-15-0; Michel 8-2-12-0; Reynard 10-4-36-2; Cornor 10-2-14-1; Smithler 7-1-33-0; Nicholam 8-1-27-0;

that says such matches demean women's cricket. Brittin, however, is of a different opinion. "In terms of a spectacle, people want to see good cricket, but these teams need to compete against the rest of us to improve," she said. England rested Charlotte Edwards, protecting her nig-

land total, but they applied

ination lacking in the past and

sought predominantly to pre-

serve wickets. Melissa Rev-

claimed two for 36 from her

There is a school of thought

gling knee injury, and gave the players who missed England's opening victory against South Africa in Hyderabad an outing. England now return to Hyderabad to take on Denmark tomorrow, with the prospect of another straightforward victory.

#### Diluted pleasures on tap in desert Soaked in sun and cash it may be, but the delights of

Sharjah leave Michael Henderson high and dry

ricket, so far as many English people are con-cerned, ins snugly into a world of bucolic cosiness: the village green, the homely pub whack of bat on ball. It is a world of stout yeomanry, where the taking part is what counts. The fact that it belongs largely to myth does not diminish its charm. People live by myths. So do nations.

It requires an impressively gymnastic imagination to con-jure up anything farther in spirit from that world than the place where England's oneday cricketers are billeted for the next week. Sharjah, one of the seven princedoms that constitute the United Arab Emirates, is a dusty bowl of a place where people work for money, big money. There is no life here that a well-rounded person would recognise, unless you fancy dozing by a

swimming pool.

Dubai, where the four teams competing in the Champions Trophy are staying, is linked to Sharjah by a main road on which motorists charge up and down at unreasonable speeds. Twice a day there are traffic jams caused by the people who work in Dubai and live in Sharjah, where the rents are lower.

Dubai is a cosmopolitan playground for the rich of the Middle East, populated by Russian prostitutes eager for hard currency, and expatriates of every hue. But for all the money sloshing about, and the curious, indefinable sense of "activity" that money brings, its attractions are cosmetic. If Milton Keynes had sand and camels, and a few international hotels, it might look something like Dubai.

People here like the money that they earn but they also enjoy their home comforts. The other night, for example, it was possible to watch the Juventus v Manchester United game in a cavernous sports bar and wash it down with pints of rather mucky Boddington's (a beer, incidentally, which is more like Manchester City: living on a reputation established many moons ago).

So, gentlemen in England now abed, do not curse yourselves and hold your manhoods cheap you are not here. Some of you, though, might

like to follow the cricket and have been denied, so far, by the reluctance of BBC and Sky to offer even a highlights package. Matthew Fleming, whose canny bowling helped England to win the opening match on Thursday, got in a fearful bate yesterday when he considered that such a goodnews story, on his international debut to boot, was not available to viewers at home.

aybe the schedulers have dropped a IVI brick; maybe not. Sport, for better or worse, is the lingua franca of our times, which is why everybody has come this week to a small ground on the edge of the desert. To be truthful, not everybody has come. Some of the locals follow cricket, from a distance, but they are not battering the doors down to get in. The drama is being enacted for a bigger audience in other theatres.

There were plenty of Indians in the crowd on Thursday but the English contingent that gathered round a flag of St George was thin. That lot are far more interested in kickball. The only game that is guaranteed to bring a capacity crowd to a ground that reputedly holds 25,000 is the one tomorrow between India and Pakistan, which promises to be a very lively affair, with or without betting scams. England are very much the

Johnnie-come-latelys where Shariah is concerned. This is only the third of their teams to come here, after two springtime sorties in 1985 and 1987. Pakistan have been here 20 times, India on 13 occasions and even New Zealand, from the other side of the world, have paid five visits.

However unfamiliar it is to them at the moment, England's players will soon be fully acquainted with the Sharjah experience. Next September, at the end of the county season, and a month before the Test party goes to Australia, the ICC is staging a one-day beano here for all nine Test-playing countries, as part of Ali Bacher's plan to improve the game's international dev-

elopment. It will pre-empt the proper World Cup in England by nine months, thereby taking the edge off it, but that is the way the cricket world is

going.
So long as television is the cash-cow, somebody will always want to milk it, whether the stumps are pitched in Sharjah, Toronto or, some day soon, that well-known cricketing country, the United States of America, where the public is famously hostile to other people's sports.

Originally, the competition next autumn was going to be held in Disneyland, presumably with Mickey and Minnie Mouse as the umpires. The danger must be that, in the search for big, undiscriminating audiences, the game will become diluted to the point when nobody can taste anything. And then what?

That is not the case this week. England played good cricket to beat India, and there are advantages in gaining as much competitive one-day experience as possible before the World Cup. But it would not be wise to come here on a regular basis. It is no more than a bun-fight in the desert. and nobody in his right mind ever eats more than one bun at

#### Fleming welcomed with open arms into England family

made a much better start to the Champions Trophy. They beat India the hard way on Thursday, defending a total that should have been bigger, nard turned in a useful spell of left-arm seam bowling and despite a lovely imnings from Tendulkar that took India to within eight runs of victory. Having done it, they should go into today's match against West Indies full of beans.

It was a red-letter day vesterday for Matthew Fleming, the Kent all-rounder, who spent part of his 33rd birthday reflecting on his four matchclinching wickets. Alec Stewart was named man of the match for his fine hundred but Fleming, who bowled at the death, ensured that Stewart finished on the winning

Although Fleming was an additional selection to the party, after Darren Gough withdrew, the players have

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SHARIAH

serenaded him with Consider Yourself One of the Family from the musical Oliver! Like Dougle Brown and one or two others, he now knows that good performances this week will get him to the Caribbean next April.

"There was no point in coming here thinking I was just making up the numbers," Fleming, who turned professional at the comparatively late age of 24 after spending six years in the Army, said. "I had to come here thinking I had a chance of going to the West Indies but I was realistic enough to know that I was the fourteenth man to be chosen.

"It is good to hear the selectors say there will be some degree of continuity (in the build-up to the World Cupl. The nucleus of the

World Cup side is here. Some people will fall by the wayside but others will come on. The spirit in this side is excellent. I remember Chris Cowdrey saying he had to introduce himself to some people when he played for England, but there's been none of that."

Fleming's background has helped to give him a fuller, broader view of life than many professionals, as he admits. "Often they know nothing except cricket whereas I have been more fortunate in having several experiences before I became a cricketer. Even when you are losing, worse things could happen." England expect to field the

same side against West In-dies, with Nick Knight batting at No 3, ahead of Ben Hollioake, and Dean Headley preferred to Peter Martin. They complete their matches against Pakistan on Monday,

#### West Indies break their losing run

WITH Brian Lara playing a leading role, West Indies gained some consolation for their drubbing in the Test series in Pakistan by beating the same opponents by 43 runs in yesterday's Champions Trophy match in Sharjah. Lara put indifferent Test form behind him with a brilliant innings of 88 from 80 balls to help West Indies post an imposing score of 275 for seven. The young Pakistan opener, Shahid Afridi, threatened to make light of the target as he hit four sixes and six fours in his 67 made from 56 deliveries but West Indies tightened up their work in the field and Pakistan were dis-

missed for 232. Lara, who scored only 129 runs in six Test innings in Pakistan, took the bowling apart, hitting three sixes and seven fours before being dis-

ran out Afridi with a direct hit from point when Pakistan were cruising at 124 for two in the 22nd over.

Courtney Walsh, the West Indies skipper, who could lose the job after the disasters in Pakistan, took two for 14 in eight demanding overs. "This is just what we needed to get our act together," Walsh said.
"I said before the tournament that we could not be written

Lara benefited from a rousing start provided by Phillo Wallace and Stuart Williams who put on 81 in 16 overs before Wallace was dismissed by Saglain Mushtag, the off spinner, who finished with three for 35. The pace bowlers were harshly treated, although Wasim Akram improved his figures with wickets from successive balls

to 1pm. :lephone ded the he name narks of W1 GXL.

he myth of the manag-er. By turns hero and villain. Now to be prized, now to be blamed. Now worshipped, now ejected. Before the season even started, the 58-year-old Gigi Simone, somewhat surprisingly appointed manager of Internazionale when still in charge of a Napoli team in crisis, was on the verge of losing his job. Massimo Moratti, the club's president. had evidently had enough of

him already. Only two late goals by the Uruguayan substitute. Recoba, saved Inter from ignominious home defeat by little Brescia in their opening Serie A match, and the sack seemed more likely still. Yet look at Inter now; far and away top of the Campionato. sailing into the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup with an easy 3-0 win last Tuesday against Strasbourg at the San Siro. Though what would have happened to Simone had Inter, who lost the first leg 2-0. Bela Guttman, who twice been knocked out? won the European Cup with There is reason to believe that

all managers have a finite reign. Arrigo Sacchi, for example, was plucked out of the chorus by Milan's owner. Silvio Berlusconi, won trophies galore, became the unpopular coach of an Italy team that still reached the World Cup final of 1994, went back to Milan mid-season, had a disastrous time and was booted out.

Gerry Francis looked, at the time, a stronger candidate for the England managership than Glenn Hoddle, but this season even the endless injuries could not exonerate him from blame for Tottenham's failings. Evidently he himself thought something had gone, for he resigned. Yet when he was succeeded by the littleknown Christian Gross, the players, far from responding, as footballers in their naive optimism often do, to the new manager, promptly gave up the ghost against Chelsea. My favourite relevant anecdote is still the one told by the famous Hungarian coach.



Benfica. In 1955, he turned up in the restaurant in Rome where I used to lunch, just sacked by Milan after two consecutive defeats, even though they were still leading the league. "In my next con-

tract," he said wrily, "I shall have a clause; not to be dismissed when the team is top of the league."

Then he told this tale. Some years earlier, Lucchese, a modest Tuscan team, had travelled to Turin to play the mighty Juventus. On the way. their manager died. Desper-ate, their directors phoned all over Italy for a replacement. and found one, who arrived at the last moment. Lucchese drew i-i, and the players carried the manager off on their shoulders. Brian Mears, then chairman

of Cheisea, once observed: "I didn't know managers had to be motivated, too." He was re-ferring to Dave Sexton, who had won the FA and the Cup Winners' cups but was find-ing life hard. The fact is that even the finest managers can run out of steam. Alf Ramsey made a marvellous job with England in the 1966 and 1970 World Cups. But by 1972, when they met West Germany in the European Nations Cup quarter-finals, he was not the same man.



At Wembley, he chose a mid-field without a tackler. Gunter Netzer ran riot and Germany won 3-1. In the return, which he had to win to survive, Ramsey chose an utterly negative team full of hard men, which drew 0-0. "The whole England team." Netzer said, "has



Ferguson, unlike Ramsey and Francis, shows no signs of running out of steam

dersfield and Arsenal, for autographed my leg." Ramexample. When Chapman died, in 1934. sey lasted almost another two years. It was only on the inhe was surprisingly succeed-ed by the journalist, George Allison, who had scant know-ledge of the game. But "below sistence of the manipulative Sir Harold Thompson, who disliked him, that he was stairs" there was a trainer with the magic hands, Tom Whittaker, whom the players

The achievement of some managers is beyond dispute; Herbert Chapman, at Hudhimself became manager in 1947 he began well but ultimately found the job too much. "You need a Tom Whittaker," the ebullient programme editor, Harry Homer, told him.

lex Ferguson has lasted long and won trophies galore for Manchester United. Yet a couple of years ago. he seemed to have lost his touch, allowing Paul Ince. Mark Hughes and Andrei Kanchelskis to leave the club. with initially drastic consequences.

Even last season, his tactics in Turin, when United hardly competed against Juventus in a European challenge. seemed badly mistaken. Juve won in Manchester, too. This season, despite what hap-pened last Wednesday in Turin. it is Ferguson who has looked the masterly figure. Not many managers, however, can rise above themselves like that, and not many get the opportunity.

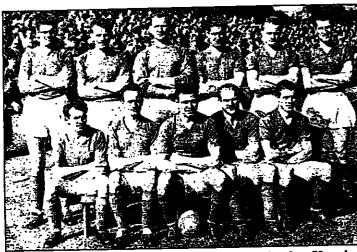
Struggle

goes on

for man

This week, Mark Hodkinson takes time to reminisce with a Barnsley player from a bygone age

### Look back to world of difference



Barnsley, 1956-57 (from back row, left): Sharp, Bartlett, Hough, Short, Houghton, Swift: Kaye, Smith, Chappell, Wood, McCann

e expect our sporting heroes to be immortal. They should live for ever in the moments of their glory - young, supremely fit, blithe, free from the stress that

encumbers an everyday life. Footballers, especially, are perceived as forever people, their huge wages sanctioning a life of eternal youth and opulence. When their careers are over. we do not expect to see them at the greengrocers or working in a factory. In our dreams, they remain a race apart, young and glamorous, fro-

zen in time. John McCann is in the small kitchen of his house in Barnsley. quietly thumbing through the pages of his scrapbook, stopping occasionally to linger over a photograph. There are two

John McCanns present. One is 63 and recently made redundant after 26 years in a carpet factory. The other, staring out from a picture, is a handsome, dark-haired professional footballer, sweeping past defenders, the crowd roaring at his back. That's me playing at Charlton," he

says. He comes across a clean photograph of the Barnsley team from 1957 - young men. arms crossed, ready to do battle - and says: "Four of that team are dead now. Bobby Wood had a bad stroke and died ... " There is, thankfully,

one success story. The big lad at the back, Duncan [Sharp], has done all right for himself. He has got his own haulcompany. age comp McCann said.

In the old pictures, there is the inventory of football — the kits. players, crowd, an earnest pursuit of the ball — but the game and the lifestyle it perpetuates has since transmogrified. McCann talks about the modern game, but it is clear that it is beyond his ken and reach. "It has reach. changed drastically

since I played," he said. "I used to be a ball player, but it is all one touch now and so quick. Most of the players comfortable on the ball are foreigners."

McCann began his career as a winger with Bridgeton Waverley, a Scottish junior side. He was working as a trainee manager at his local



John McCann with the constant reminder of his playing days with Barnsley in the late Fifties, although he has not revisited Oakwell since

Co-op when Barnsley offered him a professional contract for £17 per week. He left his home city of Glasgow and arrived in Yorkshire in December 1955, lodging with an elderly couple.

here was no gymnasium at Oakwell, so training sessions took place outside. They trained whatever the weather and he cannot recall a single cancellation. During the preseason, players took part in "fast walking, trudging through the streets of Barnsley in the July sunshine. "We used to do five or six miles. They always found us plenty of hills," McCann recalled. "I remember one, Hound Hill. Oh God,

I can see it now." McCann found the club an extremely hierarchical structure and though he sometimes used to see the Barnsley chairman, Joe Richards, and the board of directors, the players considered these men in overcoats to be "like gods". After four years at Oakwell, he was told by one of these "gods" that a transfer to Bristol City had been arranged. He was sold for £21,000, a handsome profit on Barnsley's ini-

tial investment of less than £1,000. The training at Bristol was eccentric. In practice matches, McCann often found that there was no opposition; they would merely run forward, pass the ball between themselves and score goals at will. "It was silly. I thought, God almighty, what's this in aid of?"," he said. In a facetious mood one morning, he deliberately kicked the

from Oakwell, he has not been back ball out of play, knowing this would effectively end the game since there was no opponent to take the throwin. "I was sent for an early bath and I never made the first team again after that," he said.

e moved on and later played for Derby County, Huddersfield Town and Chesterfield before returning to Barnsley to set up a business with his brother-in-law as a panel beater and sprayer. The venture did not materialise, so McCann took a job at Shaw Carpets in Barnsley, where he remained until his redundancy. "It was strange doing an ordinary job to begin with, but it became all right,"

Surprisingly, despite living a mile

who beat system JEAN-MARC BOSMAN may have singlehandedly changed the face of sport and brought the football authorities to book, but he has paid a heavy personal price for his achieve ment. Two years after the European Court of Justice's Bosman ruling" changed for-

players a club could employ. Bosman himself is counting the cost of his five-year legal campaign.
"I'm glad it ended successfully, but at what price? It's been very tough for me." Bosman said. "Now I'm trying to organise my life. I sacrificed everything and I must sort everything out, earn a living.

ever the transfer system and caused the scrapping of limits on the number of foreign

although unfortunately not on the pitch any more." Bosman's case started in 1990, when his Belgian club. Dunkirk and later suspended him. Bosman took Liege, the Belgian football federation and Uefa to court. A Belgian appeals court sought the Court of Justice's advice and still has to rule on the amount

of damages he should receive. The legal battle ruined Bosman, now 33, forced him to live in his parents' garage for nearly two years, and wrecked his marriage. I had the trial, problems, couldn't find a job any more, didn't make a living and you know how it works in a couple. I can't say the trial was the only reason, but it certainly contributed. Lack of money speeds up these things," he said.

Bosman survived with appearance money from television networks and support from players' unions. He is now claiming 23 million Belgian francs (about £385,000) in damages from Uefa and the Belgian football union although he expects the union to foot the whole bill and hopes a settlement will be reached

without a further court case. A quick deal would also be convenent given that the European championships are to be held in Belgium and Holland in 2000. Bosman, who turned down two earlier settlement offers, said: "This trial could still linger on for two years, it would be bad publicity for Belgium in the run-up."

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### Turner looks to past for future

TIMES are hard at Hereford United, whose creditors have become increasingly inchy since the club slipped into the Vauxhali Conference last season. So, Graham Turner, Hereford's director of football, hit upon the idea of an auction of football memorabilia to help to swell the ailing Edgar Street coffers. He has had a good response, too, with almost every club in the FA Carling Premiership contributing to the cause.

Everything goes under the hammer at The Green Dragon Hotel in Hereford tomorrow at 2.30pm (viewing llam) and includes signed shirts from Alan Shearer and David Beckham, autographed firstday covers from Stanley Matthews and a Scotland v Brazil

match programme signed by Pelé. Even Graham Taylor. who did not enjoy the most cordial of relationships with Turner after he replaced him as manager at Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1994, has given freely. Taylor, now with Watford, has provided several mementoes from his days as the England manager, although it is not known whether they include an autographed turnip.

#### Rough justice

When Bristol Rovers opened a new shop in the city, Pirate Leisure, they hoped that it would provide a more accessible outlet for all those supporters who did not want to trek to the Memorial Ground in Hor-



field. Unfortunately, it also attracted the type of fan who visits uninvited in the middle of the night and a burglar alarm had to be fitted pronto. Nick Britton, of the Rovers commercial department, was dispatched to sort it out and was feeling rather pleased with his handiwork until he returned home. His house had been broken into.

As Adrian Viveash, the Walsall defender, sits back over Christmas and contemplates his two-match suspension, he is perhaps hoping that Robert Styles, the referee from

Waterlooville, is not saddled with any more Walsall fixtures this season. Styles was responsible for four of Viveash's bookings. "What has he got against me?" anguished Adrian said. "Is it my style of play he doesn't care for?"

since the day that he was trans-

ferred. He was playing golf when

they clinched promotion to the FA

Carling Premiership last April. He

is "happy" that they have done so

well, but his sense of detachment

His wife, Eileen, returns and, while her husband has his picture

taken in another room, she talks

about life as a footballer's wife. She

does not mention glory, wealth or

kudos, but remembers "standing

outside in the pouring rain after

matches, not even offered a cup of

tea". She rues that players were not

given any help for a life after

football. Suddenly, she asks why

anyone is interested in him after all

this time. It would take too long to

explain.

from it all is extraordinary.

#### Ruud food

Little seems to ruffle the smooth sophistication of Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea playermanager, and, consequently, his cool image is in much demand. He recently launched his own brand of leisurewear and has been enlisted by a well-known restaurant chain to plug its

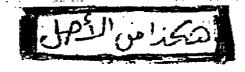
Gullit will be seen on screen trying to sign a mysterious Italian-sounding player who - surprise, surprise - turns out to be a pizza. It took him only seven takes to get it right, which shames the efforts of Gareth Southgate, alongside Stuart Pearce and Chris Waddle. After 27 attempts,

Southgate finally heard the magic words: "it's a wrap." Gullit's fee for such professionalism is believed to be not unadjacent to £30,000.

#### Switched on

Football is big in Burkina Faso and the Government is doing its best to bring the 1998 African Nations' Cup finals into the sitting-rooms of the people. To ensure a wider audience for the competition. which is being staged in Ouagadougou, the capital, and Bobo-Dioulasso from February 7 to 28 remote villagers will be provided with televisions at a price guaranteed by the Government. For those communities that cannot receive the signals, satellite dishes will be sold tax free.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: ASton Villa are the most prolific collector of corners in the Premiership. In 17 matches. they have amassed 128 - four more than Chelsea.





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#### **FOOTBALL SATURDAY**

# Duberry resists idol pleasures

The precocious Chelsea defender knows that winning trophies is more important than winning plaudits

t is a tumultuous place usually, the upper deck of the glorified pavilion that the Chelsea players retire to after a hard morning on the training pitches. The persistent clink of cutlery on china mixes with guffaws as they eat at the rows of trestle tables, and in the midst of the babble the Italians make parodies of themselves with extravagant greetings of "Ciao, baby."

On Thursday lunchtime, though, it was quiet. Gianfranco Zola had wandered in to look at a couple of golf clubs that someone had brought him. He took a few practice swings. Graeme Le Saux had nipped in to grab a sandwich. And, in a far corner, Michael Duberry had caught the mood, too. He was talking quickly and intently, oblivious to whatever might have been going on around him.

2068 ou

for man

who beat

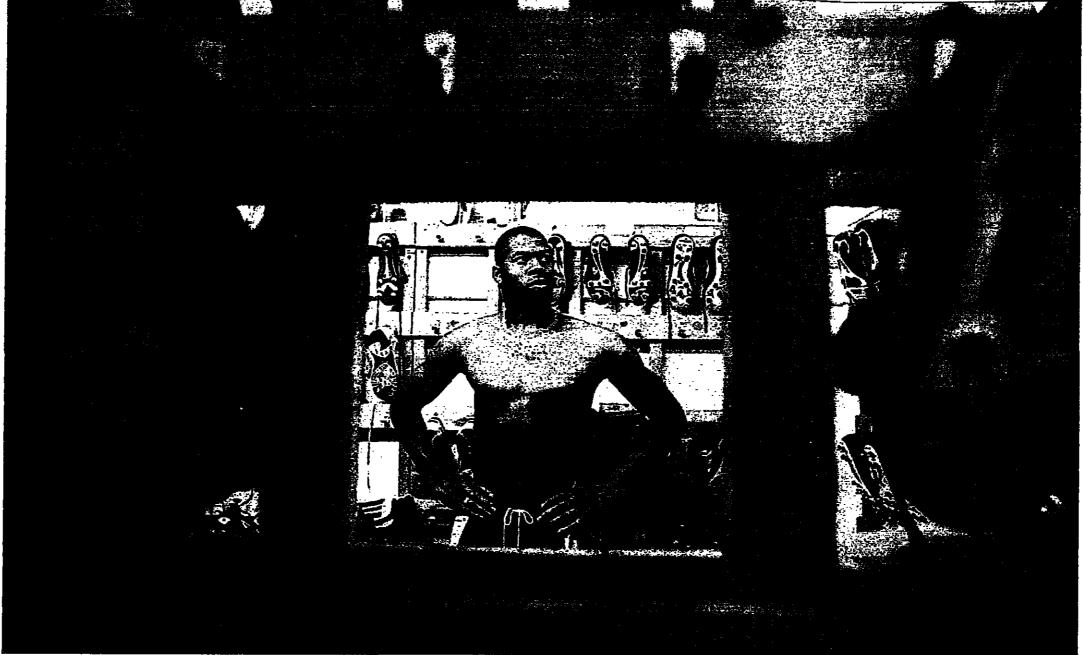
Even in repose, his heavy fea tures were creased with determination. A black woollen hat was pulled down over his forehead so that it almost reached his eye-brows, emphasising the set of his face. He talked with a studied humility surprising in one so precociously talented, but through the north London lilt of his voice the ambition to emulate those among his peer group who have already progressed to the England squad burned through.

"It just gives you more of an incentive," Duberry said. "You look at Sol Campbell and Rio Ferdinand and you say: That's where I want to be.' That's the incentive. I am fit again now and I have got to build on what I had before my injury. I have to keep learning, keep listening to those around me. That is my target, to get into the England squad. If I set that as my standard then I will develop as a player anyway, even if I don't make it."

Most believe that Chelsea's towering central defender would have made it already were it not for the Achilles tendon injury that brought his startling progress to a shuddering halt in January and ruled him out for the rest of the season. As Duberry travelled the long road back to fitness, Campbell established himself at the heart of the England defence and Ferdinand rocketed out of the ranks at West Ham United and into the plans of Glenn Hoddle, the England coach.

Now that he has recovered. though, Duberry is staking his claim. After the World Cup draw ten days ago, Hoddle mentioned him in a group of four young players — the others were Ferdinand, Michael Owen and Emile Heskey — that he would like to take a closer look at in the six months between now and naming his final squad for France.

Duberry, 22, the commanding presence that Chelsea need to complement the more elegant but more fragile defending of Frank look to you. People see you all of a



Window of opportunity: Duberry's long lay-off with injury has seen him forsake the trappings of stardom and focus on a career that could yet be crowned with a place in the World Cup finals

Leboeuf, knows that the next five play Leeds United Stamford Bridge this afternoon and the England under-21s take on Greece at Carrow Road on Wednesday night

- could greatly More than that, though, he is aware that it is his attitude, his determination to stay focused and to concentrate wholly on his game

that hold the key. He can sense the dangers in the adulation that surrounds him and the rest of Ruud Gullit's team as they chase

Manchester United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, and he is steeled to give them a wide berth. "Suddenly, things can start changing around you when you are in the first team," Duberry said. "The main thing is the way people

this big shot that everyone looks un and that's changing you.
"But, if you have got the right people around you and you are strong enough in yourself, it is easy to keep your feet

on the floor. I look

ing that you are

at people like Mark Hughes and Luca Vialli. They are big superstars and have won a lot of things, but they are two of the most down-to-earth people I have ever met. They could be here giving it big time but they just get on with it and play the game.

"The only time I would start getting big time is when I am 35 or 38, I have represented my country and won a World Cup. When you believing everything in the papers.

have been there and done it, people sudden as an idol. as a big thing. You can't really tell you anything. You don't see yourself have got the medals and the as anything, but if trophies to back your talk up. In the you start believing meantime, if you have strong friends and family to keep you all that, you start getting carried down, it is all right. away and think-

"I heard what Glenn Hoddle said about me last week. It makes you feel that he is taking note of you. But you cannot read too much into it and start thinking: 'I'm there.' I know from the tim here as manager. When I started breaking into the team, he said: You're playing well but you're not there, you've done nothing."

"In the same way, the stage that I'm at now, I've done nothing really. I'm 22, but compared to Nicky Butt. Phil Neville and Gary Neville, they have won championships, they are playing for England, so I have not really accomplished like them. OK, I have played a few games for Chelsea, impressed a few people, won a few under-21 caps. But. if I was to end tomorrow, I would not have accom-

plished anything.
"It is all there for the taking. The worst thing I can do is get complacent. I just have to keep switched on and not fall in to the trap of

It would be so much better to get there and read the headlines that Michael Duberry is starring in the World Cup than ones that say I am prodigy waiting to get to the World Cup."

Duberry's hunger to force himself into the England reckoning has been fed by his exile from the Chelsea team that won the FA Cup last season. While Zola, Leboeuf and the rest went all the way to mbley. Duberry was sti ing his Achilles, forced into an idle role for the biggest day in the club's recent history.

"I read all the headlines, but there was no Duberry in the side and it felt strange." he said. "Even now, we get asked to sign the team picture from that day and my face is not there.'

e counts himself lucky that during his lay-off he had much to occupy his mind. He moved to a new house to the north of London and in June his girlfriend gave birth to their first child, a daughter. Kayci, Domestically, he could not be happier, and now he is ready to redouble his devotion to football. A product of Enfield Grammar School and the Chelsea youth team. he is also walking, talking proof that the influx of high-profile foreigners effected by Gullit has not stifled the progress of talented young British players at the west London club. For Duberry, in fact, their presence has been a spur. "It has helped everyone having

the foreign players here," he said. "Look at it since Ruud has taken over. He must have given about six or seven young players their debuts as the most difficult to defend — Mark Nicholls, Jody Morris, against. Each presents his own Neil Clement, Stevey Hampshire. Nick Crittenden, Joe Sheerin. He is bringing them through at the same time. When you have got a player like Franco Zola playing, you are going to lift your game because you don't want to let him down, you don't want to let yourself down, you want everyone to see that you can

handle it. It lifts everyone's game. The mix and blend of the whole camp is really good. The only thing that is stopping us from going all the way to the title this season is ourselves. We have dropped some silly points which could have been avoided, but we have just got to stay focused. We have got to see ourselves as a big side and realise that everyone is going to try to want to beat us. We have got to adopt a mentality of killing off sides. Manchester United are the standard everyone has got to look to and if they slip up, they slip up."

Duberry grew up idolising Des
Walker, then of Nottingham For-

est, and now considers Tony Adams to be the leading defender in the country. As far as forwards go, he names lan Wright, Les Ferdinand, Duncan Ferguson, Stan Collymore and Teddy Sheringham problems, but if Duberry can subdue them this season, the door to France is likely to swing open.

The World Cup has got to be a target for every English player in the Premiership," he said. "My aim is to stay injury-free for the rest of the season, keep playing well and hopefully impress someone in the England ser-up and get involved at some stage. But, if it doesn't happen. I will be a better player for it and I will still only be 22.

"I never really worried about whether people would forget about me when I was injured. I knew I would be back and, anyway, it was only a small setback. At the end of the day. I have got no problems in life. A problem is when you are struggling to find food for the next

### Clubs pay for foreign fixation

IT IS the time of year when turkeys come home to roost. FA Carling Premiership managers, at the start of the Christmas rush of matches, are beginning to experience the downside of their fixation. with all things foreign.

That old chestnut, the club

versus country row, has reared its head again, but with a new slant, because the countries involved include South Africa, Australia, the United States and Costa Rica. Yesterday, Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, and Danny Wilson, his counterpart at Barnsley, discovered that there are hidden costs to apparently cheap imports. Todd was close to apoplexy when he discovered that he would lose Mark Fish. his central defender, for the

match against Derby County

appear in the Continental Cup, a two-week tournament in Saudi Arabia. Fish was due to fly back to join up with Bolton this week after international duty before

flying on to Riyadh on Mon-day, but South Africa reversed an earlier decision and took him straight to Saudi Arabia. "What really annoys me is that South Africa told me that Mark would be free to play on Sunday," Todd said. "If they had said he couldn't play at first, that would have been fine, but to do this is totally

international team." Wilson was also furious. Eric Tinkler, Barnsley's South Africa international midfield player, will face Newcastle United today, but will then

unacceptable behaviour for an

called upon by South Africa to travel to Saudi Arabia to join up with his country. "It is a totally irrelevent competition." Wilson said. "The lad is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea because he wants to do well for us but he has to recognise his country. Clive Barker Ithe South Africa coach! doesn't understand the

intensity of competition in the

Premiership. "What South Africa are asking Eric to do is play five games in the next nine days before our busiest period of the year. It is crazy, and Fifa must take some of the blame. It is their competition — why have they scheduled such an irrelevent competition at this time of the year?"

Leeds United are also affected. They will lose Lucas Radebe, a South Africa de-

Australia, Leicester City lose Kasey Keller, their United States goalkeeper. But it may be merely the start of a tide of resentment against the loss of foreign players to international commitments. In February, the US will play host to five nations, including Costa Rica and Holland, in the Gold Cup. another Fifa-registered tournament, in Florida. Arsenal will lose Marc Overmars for two weeks and Derby County will be deprived of Paulo Wanchope. Keller is also likely

to be involved again. A spokesman for the Dutch football association confirmed that the tournament would be used as preparation for the World Cup and that Overmars would be involved, although Dennis Bergkamp, his club colleague, would escape because he refuses to fly.

#### rest on his laurels BY RUSSELL KEMPSON FEW sides in the Nationwide

**Robson refusing to** 

League can better the consistency of Middlesbrough, the first division leaders, and few pundits would bet against them collecting another three points at the expense of lowly Reading at the Riverside Stadium today. Middlesbrough have won to of their 25 league and cup games this season and lost only three.

Confidence has gradually returned since their acrimonious departure from the FA Carling Premiership seven months ago and they took over at the top of the table for the first time after the 1-0 victory against Bury at Gigg Lane last Saturday. Emerson is not leaving for the sunnier climes of Tenerife - "It's all nonsense, as usual," Bryan Robthe Middlesbrough manager, said yesterday and the casualty list down by

the Riverside is easing, too. We've got good momentum at the moment and we've just got to keep it going." Robson said. "We might be top but there's always room for improvement. We've got funds available and, if we're able to find players that I think can improve on what we've got here, we'll try to sign them.' However, he discounted rumours linking him with Dion Dublin, the Coventry City

Reading's recent record is marginally less impressive only three defeats in 16 matches - and they will perhaps be looking to gain psychological



brownie points before their Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final against Middlesbrough at Elm Park in the new year.

Terry Bullivant, the Reading manager, has completed the signing of Gareth Davies. the Crystal Palace defender. for £175,000 and he is expected to make his debut against Middlesbrough. Terry Fenwick, the Ports-

mouth manager, yesterday apologised to the club's longsuffering supporters for the errors he has made this season. "I'm still learning my trade as a manager and I'm sorry one or two things haven't worked out the way I would have liked them to," he said. "Even though I've made some mistakes, I feel I've made more good decisions than bad ones." Portsmouth visit their fellow strugglers, Ipswich Town, today.

Brighton's plight near the foot of the third division will not be helped by the fact that they have abandoned overnight stays - to save money for all bar the longest of journeys. They were due to leave early this morning for the 200-mile trek to take on Mansfield Town.

#### moment of truth By Kevin McCarra

Hearts arrive at

sage from one year to the next can be a rickery bridge. Heart of Midlothian will be more aware than most this December of the consequences of a. false step, since a team at the top of the Bell's Scottish League premier division has furthest to fall. The next few weeks are, by tradition, a treacherous time.

FOR football clubs, the pas-

A glance at the fixture list confirms that the Edinburgh club has come to a series of moments of truth. This afternoon, they face Celtic in Glasgow and next weekend they play Rangers at Tynecastle. The exacting spell, however, has already begun with a 0-0 draw in a demanding game at Dundee United on Tuesday.

The evidence of that match was ambiguous, with Hearts more capable of concerned play, yet failing to manufacture chances and seeing the opposition miss the few opportunities of the evening. Nonetheless, it was the first occasion this season on which Jim Jefferies' side has not scored. Accordingly, it would be premature to treat that draw as proof of sterility.

Hearts have performed berter than the Old Firm, as their positions in the table demonstrates. However, two of their three defeats in the league have been inflicted by Rangers and Celtic. Today in Glasgow. Hearts will set out to demonstrate that an inferiority complex does not enfeeble them whenever they face their two principal rivals, and they are not alone in having questions to answer.

Celtic's victory at Pittodrie on Tuesday was only their second in the past six league matches. In the attempt to make his team a more consistently telling force, Wim Jan-

sen, the head coach, has now

signed the prolific Harald Brattbakk from Rosenborg Trondheim for £2.2 million. The Norwegian forward made a good impression in his first training session with his new team-mates vesterday Nonetheless, Jansen is rarely inclined to rush his acquisitions into action and Brattbakk may have to content himself with a place on the substitutes' bench today. The most celebrated forward in Glasgow at present, though, need have no doubts over his

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involvement Marco Negri, scorer of 30 goals this season, has recovered from injury and will attempt to continue the marauding for Rangers against Dunfermline Athletic at East End Park. His availability comes as a relief to his club, who are without the suspended Paul Gascoigne and the injured Brian Laudrup. Having conceded 28 goals to Rangers in their past six meetings. Dunfermline may wish there had been a few more casualties in the opposition's ranks. Should Rangers

win and Hearts lose, the Ibrox club will assume the lead in the premier division.

### Newcastle eager to sign Croatia forward

NEWCASTLE United have made an offer of £3.5 million for Igor Cvitanovic, the Croatia forward. Cvitanovic impressed Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, when he scored against them for his club, Croatia Zagreb, in the qualifying round of the European Champions' League.

A spokesman for Zagreb said last night: "Newcastle have made us an offer, but we will consider the situation carefully before offering a response."

Dalglish is searching for a versatile player who is equally at home on the left flank or in a more forward position. The 27-year-old performs one role for his club, the other for his country. Cvitanovic, though. is struggling to satisfy the Government's strict policy on work By David Maddock

nermits. He has become a regular international in recent months, but has not played 75 per cent of his country's

es over the past two years. Middlesbrough attempted to buy the player earlier in the season, but failed to obtain a work permit. Liverpool no longer have that problem with their offer to Dynamo Kiev for the services of Alexander Golovko, the Ukraine international defender. The bid, in the region of

£3 million, has been rejected. Grigori Surkis, the president of Kiev, confirmed the Liverpool interest, and also suggested that an English club. possibly Manchester United, had made a \$20 million offer for Andrei Shevchenko, the Kiev forward, which had also been rejected. "We have had massive bids but we are not interested in selling." Surkis

Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, has received two separate offers from consortia hoping to buy out his controlling interest in the club. Johnson has been offered £45 million by the competing groups, but indicated that he would sell only at the figure of £100 million -

double the stock market value of the club. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, will fly to Argentina this weekend to watch Marcello Salas in action once again for River Plate. Ferguson hopes to complete a £12 million deal for the Chile international before the turn of the year.

striker.





ARSENAL BLACKBURN ROVERS Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Peter Robinson Roy Hodgson had a warning for Manchester United. 'Their biggest danger is thinking that they are clearly

better than the others," he said. There are a lot of good teams left in the tournament and just because they have had a good qualifying competition doesn't mean that they will win it. To read the press, you would think it was just a question of them turning up." He was talking about the European Cup, but he could have been talking about the FA Carling Premiership.

Nobody doubts that, as of now, United are the best team in the country. If the league were to end tomorrow, they would be worthy winners — but it does not. It ends in May. If you imagine the season thus far to be the qualifying competition, sorting the contenders from the rest, then the real championship race is just coming under start-

er's orders. There are few games more interesting today than the encounter at Highbury between Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers. contenders both, Indeed, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, would echo the sentiments of his opposite number to the syllable.

Write Arsenal off as would-be champions? In December? Especially as their sticky patch of injuries, suspensions and an Ian Wright goal famine, such as it was, appears to be coming to an end. Vieira, for example, muchmissed in midfield, returns to the squad after a knee injury; Bould. too, after a three-match suspension, while Wright scored the winner at Newcastle United last week, bringing to a welcome end the psychobabble that has surrounded his recent barren spell. He will play today, obviously, but Vieira and Bould may have to be content with places on the bench. A win at St James' Park is not to be sniffed at - ask Dynamo Kiev.

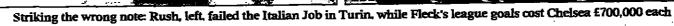
And Hodgson's Blackburn? They will be without Duff, their 18-year-old Irish winger, who is suffering from a thigh injury, although whether he would have played is another matter. He was marvellous last week, but Arsenal away is a different matter, one that suits the more prosaic talents of Wilcox on the left. James Beattie, a teenage striker, is included in the squad for what would be his second game for Blackburn - his first was against Arsenal 14 months ago - after a fine season in the reserves, scoring 15 goals. "James has done well," Hodgson said. "He has worked hard at his game but we should remember that there is a vast difference between reserve and Premier-ship football."

ARSENAL (probable: 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dison, M Keown, A Adems, N Winterburn — R Parlour, D Pisti. E Perit, M Overmars — D Berghamp, I Wright.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable: 4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, C Hendry, G Croff — S Flipley, W McKinley, T Sherwood, J Wilco, — K Gallacher, C Sution Reference & Wilson

■ TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, BBC1 10.50pm, extended

PREDICTION; Home win.







Stan Johnstell in Lee Francisch neut by the most proches are as a the FR Carby the most proches are as a the FR Carby the most proches at the Johnstell out from Johnstell shape and at 13 kepts of some for Attention and a tree and 11 for Totten and Hossell at a term other totten at 12 miles at

1. Andrea Silence (Notlingham Forest)

1. Andrea Silence (Notlingham Forest)

More Aireg Silence than Silence A. The filber school checks () zero times in 12 league outlings. Shi what else count you do with \$1.8 million?

2. Gary Pennice (Aston Villa)
A rase trace into the transfer market by Dr Josef Vengros produced one goal in 20 games at a court of 51 million

games at a cost of £1 m.8cm.

3. Paul Godfard (McDesil).

Ber worderst win, \$1 mail are m such deep financial arcible? Their £800 000 missiment in Godfard produced one grap in 20 parties. in Goddard produced one god in 20 games.

4. Alan Dickens (Chelses)
Back in the data when Chelses and shaped English players. Dickens and Seq.,000 One goal in 45 games was his "return".

5. Justin Fashamu (Notingham Forest)
Old Coughe knews a bacgain. The other Fashamu's three grass in 30 games came at more than \$200 000 enco.

Right (Juventus)
Seven goals in 29 games at \$457,000 aplece was not exact, June 5 most achieve peace of business.

7. Terry Gibson (Manchester United)
Big Rort was getting desperate — Gibson 5 one goal in 23 games and United £650,000 and the quipmenter his yib
8. Robert Fleck (Chelsea)

An Robert Fleck (Chelsea)

Ken Bates's their (arely-sen cheruseon)
was fourished to spend 52 1 million on Fleck
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the count 529 million fook the cultyhared one to Antied Luckit, Doug Elfs
generously took him off their nands after his
legging pack cost 5253,000 agreed

10. Daniel Amekachi (Eventori)
Just about the only stitler not to turn Mike
Walker down, the Nigerian school fen times in
43 leegue games — not good for 63 million
11. Durican Fergusson (Rangers)
Rangers pard 54 million for Birg Dirno After
combiling an un-Negn-line two gools in 14
leegue games, he was off to Goodson
Compiled by Richard Whitehead noised by Richard Whitehead





**CHELSEA** I FEDS UNITED Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Oliver Holt Fresh from their thrashing of Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane last Saturday, Chel-

will draw level with Manchester United - who are idle until Monday night, when they play Aston Villa at Old Trafford — at the top of the FA Carling Premiership if they beat the obdurate Leeds United side fashioned by George Graham at Stamford Bridge

this afternoon. With Graeme Le Saux restored to the side after dislocating an elbow. Michael Duberry back at the heart of the defence, Gianfranco Zola in the sort of form that dazzled the rest of the league last season and Tore Andre Flo coming off his hat-trick against Spurs, Chelsea are brimming with confidence.

They know that United are the standard they have to aim at. They know, realistically. that Alex Ferguson's side will have to slip up to let them in. But the defeat of the English champions in Turin on Wednesday was the first hint of vulnerability from them for some time, and with Chelsea facing two matches against them in the FA Cup and Premiership, both at Stamford Bridge, in the face of a few weeks early next year. suddenly they appear to be

Whether Zola and Flo line up against Leeds, of course, denends on which attacking permutation Gullit plumps for this week. With Mark Hughes suspended, his options are slightly more limited than usual but his rough rotational system would suggest at least some sort of role for Gianluca Vialli, who has been restricted to the occasional spectacular performance

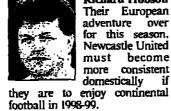
Leeds, though, even if they have shed the parsimonious tag they earned last season and have played their part to the full in a couple of sevengoal thrillers, are still primed to play the role of spoilers. They have already beaten United and Blackburn Rovers this season and Chelsea know they will be tough opponents.

It is likely to be close but, if Chelsea really are genuine title contenders, this match will test their mettle.

CHELSEA (probable; 4-4-2) E de Gosy —
F Sinclair, M Duberry, F Laboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, E Newton, D Woe R di
Matteo — G Visiti, G Zeis.
LEEDS LWINTED (probable; 3-5-2). N
Merryn — G Helle, L Raddoe, D Wetherall
— G Velty D Hopkin, L Bowyer, B Ruberson D
Robertson — R Wallege, J F Hassothank,
Referoe; G Poll.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

PREDICTION; Narrow Chel-



Richard Hobson Their European adventure over for this season Newcastle United must become more consistent domestically if

Despite having matches in hand on the leading pack, and even allowing for dreadful luck with injuries, Kenny Dalglish, the manager, must have imagined that his side would be higher than ninth place as the FA

halfway stage. Although Pearce provides a barking deterrent against complacency, the defence remains too prone to the occasional calami-

Nο

er, and the Pink Panther movies

Inspector Dreyfuss, as played by

As if a defence that played like a

collection of Clouseaus (or should

Herbert Lom.

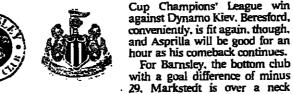


BARNSLEY

tous moment to compensate for the dilution of flair at the other Carling Premiership nears its end. Interestingly. Newcastle have conceded more goals than

NEWCASTLE UNITED Today, 3.0 (sold out)

they have scored this season. Pistone has not recovered from the back injury sustained in Wednesday night's European prove their goal difference.



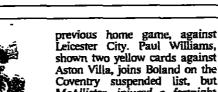
defence while Tinkler is available after playing for South Africa against Brazil last weekend.

problem to resume his place in

BARNSLEY (possible; 5-3-2): L. Leese — N. Eaden, A. Moses, P. Marissledt, A. Krizan, D. Barnard — N. Redfearn, J. Bosancic, B. Sheridan — A. Liddelf, A. Ward.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (possible; 5-3-2): S. Histop — S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Albert, S. Pearce, J. Berestord — K. Gillespie, D. Betty, R. Lee — J. Barnes, F. Asprilla.
Reference: P. Alcock.

■ TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, brief highlights.

PREDICTION: Newcastle to im-



COVENTRY CITY TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Today, 3.0 suspended. The manic cackle will be the next sign.

that be Clouseaux?) against Chelsea last week were not enough to give anyone a nervous twitch. Tottenham's injury list is growing On the plus side, Anderton is again, with Scales and Howelis definitely out and Campbell playlikely to start at Highfield Road today, where Spurs confront a ing despite a damaged shoulder: furthermore, Vega, the central Coventry team who also lost heavily at Villa Park last Saturdefender who has scored two of the team's past three goals, is day, and who were dire in their

Brian Glanville

Palace's wretched

home form sug-

gests that Liver-

pool, though well

beaten last week by Manchester United at Anfield.

will not lose this one. Word that

Liverpool's boot-room tradition is

to be abandoned, and that honest

Roy Evans will be replaced at the

end of the season by a foreign

coach, prompts the question: by

whom? A Gullit, a Wenger, a

The return of Ince from suspen-

sion will hugely strengthen the Liverpool midfield. Babb is avail-

able again and could play along-

side Matteo in central defence,

given Kvarme's fearful and costly

players, and the little matter of an

It is hard to decide which

produced more fireworks. Mon-

day night's meeting probably

shaded it, with Peter Johnson, the

chairman, offering a robust de-

fence of his regime in the face of a

Johnson's was a far more

polished performance than we

have seen from his team this

season. He silenced his detractors

with the sobering fact that he has

spent in the region of £40 million

Annual General Meeting.

hostile audience.

David Maddock

It has been an

interesting week in the life of

Everton Football

Club, what with

tales of hotel

romps involving

error against United.

Gross?

Nick Szczepanik

people have no-

ticed the resem-

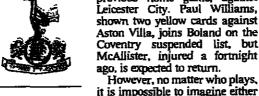
blance between

Christian Gross,

Hotspur manag-

Tottenham

wonder



at least one goal. COVENTRY CITY (possible: 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic

— R Nisson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — P
Teiler, T E Solvedt, N Whelen, M Hell — D
Hucketby, D Dubin

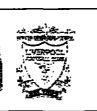
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable: 4-4-2): J
Walter — S Can, C Caldewrood, S Campbell C
Wisson — R Fox, A Neissen, D Anderton, A Sinton

— L Ferdinand, D Ginola.

of these teams failing to concede

Referee: S Dunn. ■ TELEVISION: Today: Metch of the Day, extended highlights. PREDICTION: A shot in the dark

- revenge of the pink panther. Sours win.



**CRYSTAL PALACE** LIVERPOOL Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Jones is fit again at last to play at right back, but McAteer, though more winger than full back, has done well in his absence. The double spearhead of those gifted young Liverpudlians Fowler and Owen could get more change out of Palace's somewhat

permissive three-man defence than they did out of United's. It would be good at last to see Palace's Italian duo of Lombardo and Padovano, a former Juventus pair, on show together. Lombardo, injured in training with Italy, has a 50 per cent chance of playing, as have Roberts, the influential midfielder, and Dyer, injured a fortnight ago in a challenge with another Italian, Newcastle's Pistone.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable; 3.5-2): K Miller
— A Linighan, P Warturst, H Heidersson — M
Edwortry, A Roberts, A Lombardo, S Rodger, D
Gordon — M Pedovario, N Singoerley
LIVERPOOL, (probable; 44-2): D James — J
McAtter, P Babb, D Metteo, S I Bjormelye — J
Redinapo, P Ince, S Macmanaman, O
Leorinardsen — M Owen, R Fowler.
Redinapo, N Barry Referee; N Barry.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, brief highlights. PREDICTION: Liverpool win

**EVERTON** WIMBLEDON Today, 3.0

to raise Everton to the heights of second from bottom in the FA Carling Premiership.

The upshot of the meeting, however, was that there is no more money to spend, and thus Howard Kendall will be forced to field the teenager, Cadamarteri,

for the next three matches while Ferguson serves a suspension. Bilic is also bannedfor five matches, but at least Kendall had the foresight to trawl the bargain basement well in advance and bring in Carl Tiler.

Perry and Ceri Hughes are

suspended for Wimbledon, and

with Ekoku still injured, the visitors look weaker than they have done for many seasons. EVERTON (5-3-2): T Myhro — M Ward, C Shor, D Watson, C Tiler, A Hinchcliffo — G Facelly, D Williamson, G Speed — N Bermby, D

WIMERLEDON probable; 4-4-2): N Sullivan — D Jupps, K Cumminghem, D Blackwelt, B Triatcher — N Ardley, R Earle, \$ Solbaldivan, M Hughes — M Geyle, C Cort. ree: G Ashby.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, brief highlights. PREDICITION: Too much Christmas spirit leads me to a home win.



SOUTHAMPTON LEICESTER CITY Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Russell Kempson When the mandarins of the Football Association debated their

new disciplinary system during the summer, little did they consider the abuse it would encounter It appeared reasonably straightforward: five bookings equals suspension and five successive completed matches without a vellow card automatically erases one of the cautions.

Since it was introduced, though, the smart Alecs of the Premiership have deverly exploited a loophole. If one of their players is on four bookings and has also gone four consecutive games without one, they simply give him a run-out in the reserves to lose" one of his cautions.

Hence the appearance of Muzzy Izzet, the Leicester City midfield player, in the Filbert Street stiffs' 1-0 midweek victory against Oldham Athletic. Izzet not only scored the goal but also finished the game Mission card-free.

accomplished. izzet reappears at The Dell this afternoon no longer under the threat of immediate suspension should he step out of line, and Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, also has the two Steves, Walsh and Guppy, available again after injury. Emile Heskey returns. too, his three-match ban hav-

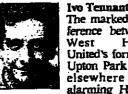
ing been served. Southampton's sequence of four wins from five outings in October and November has perhaps already been exposed as no more than a mirage by three successive deleats. The substitution of a lacklustre Matthew Le Tissier after only 55 minutes of the 1-0 defeat by Wimbledon on Sunday does not bode well, either. His chances of appearing for England in the World Cup finals in France next year appear to be receding by his every languid minute.

SOUTHAMPTON (possible: 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Beneli — K Richardson, C Palmer, M Le Tissier, M Cakley — D Hirst, K Davies. LEICESTER CITY (probable: 3-5-2) K Keller — S Pror. M Elbotr. S Watsh — P Kaumark, R Sawage, N Lemon, M Izzes, S Guppy — S Claridge, E Heskey Referee: S Lodge.

TELEVISION: Today. Match of the Day, brief highlights. PREDICTION: Leicester too strong.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports



nonge

The marked difference hetween Ham West United's form at Upton Park and elsewhere is alarming Harry

Redknapp, their loquacious manager, every bit as much as it is their supporters. "Horrendous, horrendous," was how he described their eighth away defeat against Derby County last weekend. Yet, even though Sheffield Wednesday have been rejuvenated by Ron Atkinson's invigorating presence, it will be no surprise if they are defeated by another goal or two from

John Hartson today. West Ham have some grandiose ideas. They are intent on becoming the first club in the FA Carling Premiership to form their own academies in Australia, a country which has a deserved reputation for nurturing sporting talent of its own -- if not, as yet, in football. The club has already established strong links through Lazaridis, their winger, and Slater, their former midfield player. Perth and Sydney are the two cities they are focusing on. And to think that Upton Park was once the

academy. Wednesday have won their first three matches under Atkinson's guidance, which their players attribute as much to fear for their own futures, after their poor start to the season, as to any particular change in direction at the club.

Atkinson is likely to name a team unchanged from that which beat Barnsley on Mon-





WEST HAM UNITED SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY Today, 3.0

day, although Newsome has recovered from a groin strain. Atherion is suspended and Wednesday's new signing. Niclas Alexandersson, who cost £750,000 from IFK Gothenburg. will probably be among the

substitutes. The key to this match will. perhaps, be the form of Hartson. the leading scorer in the Premiership. Against Derby, he looked sullen, and there were scarcely veiled hints by Redknapp that he was starting to take too much notice of his own publicity and, conceivably, that there was interest being shown in him from overseas. Yet it has to be said that his manager, in comparing him with Geoff Hurst, hardly helped.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable: 4-3-1-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, D Walker D Stefanowe, M Perntungge — G Whitingham, W Collins, P Rudi — B Carbone — A Booth, P di WEST HAM UNITED (probable: 3-5-1-1) L Mādosko — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — T Breacker, F Lampard, S Lomas, J Monour, S Lazands — E Berkows: — J Hartson Rateree: M Riley

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, brief highlights. ■ PREDICTION: West Harn to win



Matt Dickinson The last time Bolton visited the FA Carling Premiership they went straight back

football, everyone said, but a soft touch. Well, no one is calling them soft now.

Alan Thompson's dismissal during the defeat against Blackburn Rovers last week was their fifth red card of the season. Per Frandsen and Nathan Blake have also been sent off, along with Gerry Taggart and Andy Todd for fighting (although no one who punches Stan Collymore can be all bad). Dean Holdsworth is due to

start a two-match suspension after tomorrow, likewise Scott Sellars, and Thompson is only one booking away from an extended ban. Colin Todd, the manager, of

course claims that there is a big difference between a dirty team and one that is "hard to beat". "We are not dirty at all," he said. "I think it has got to the stage where our reputation goes before us, so people are looking out for things. Bolton have defensive prob-

lems, which have not amused Todd. He will have to play a less than fully fit Gerry Taggart after all but accusing the South Africa national team of kidnapping Mark Fish. The centre half was due to fly back from a friendly against Brazil before disappearing again to Saudi Arabia, but failed to appear with excuses about no flights available. Bolton have a good chance of



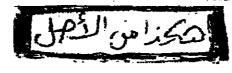
**BOLTON WANDERERS** DERBY COUNTY Tomorrow, 4,0

moving up the table tomorrow against a Derby team who have conceded four goals in each of their past three away games - at Liverpool, Leeds and Chelsea while remaining unbeaten at Pride Park. Moreover, County will travel to the Reebok Stadium without Jacob Laursen and Robbie van der Laan.

Jim Smith yesterday dismissed suggestions of a swap deal taking Dean Sturridge to Everton with Andy Hinchcliffe moving in the other direction. although he may change his mind if several million pounds were added. More likely is a deal involving Aljosa Asanovic, who has caught the eye of Celtic since losing his place in the Derby line-up because of the rule of

only three non-EU players. BOLTON WANDERERS (probable 4-4-2) G
Ward — G Bargsson, G Teggar, M Whitise, A
Todd — S Selfars, P Francisen, J Pollock, A
Thompson — D Holdsworth, N Blake
DERBY COUNTY (probable, 3-4-3) M Poorn
— G Rowett, I Surrac, D Yates — C Powell, L
Carsley, S Eraruo, C Dailly — F Basano, P
Wanchope, D Sturridge
Referee: U Remne

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm. ■ PREDICTION: Derby's defence to crack again. Botton victory.



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#### **FOOTBALL SATURDAY**

### Let's keep our heads after luck of draw puts world at our feet

top of the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Coca-Cola Cup and Cup Winners' Cup. that could yet be paraded around Stamford Bridge before next season. What price the World Cup being part-owned by a Chelsea player by July 12?

Don't bet against it, because with a couple of England internationals, two Italians, a Romanian, two Norwegians, a Dutchman, a very satisfied with how it finished.

Nigerian and myself, a FrenchMo one can be too cocky

man, it is a real possibility. We remember how Cameroon beat probably only need to sign a

Brazilian or German to be 100 per cent sure.

I was intrigued to see the World Cup draw in my home town of Marseilles last week. As well as the actual groupings, it is fascinating to see what one televised ceremony has done to the people of France. Before the draw, it is fair to say litive team who have matured

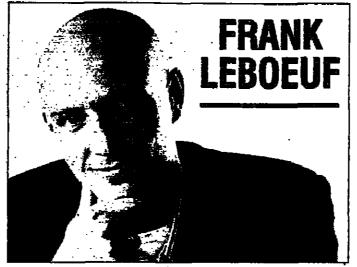
that interest in the tournament had been negligible. The public was underwhelmed by it all, and that had shown in the crowds watching the national team. Suddenly, without a ball being

kicked, the talk is of nothing else. Everyone is arguing over who can win this group, or who will be knocked out of that group. It has gripped the whole of France, especially as my compatriots were Argentina in the opening game in 1990 - but South Africa, Denmark and Saudi Arabia are countries that we can face with a certain degree of confidence. Certainly, our situation feels more comfort-able than England's, despite what

has been said over here. Romania remain a very competper, they were the first side to qualify from Europe Colombia, too, deserve great respect. If nothing else, they will be inspired by the fear of defeat or giving a goal away after the tragedy of 1994 when Andres Escobar was shot dead after scoring the own goal that saw them eliminated.

England have not been given the worst draw - that probably fell to Spain, who must face Bulgaria, Nigeria and Paraguay — but it is by no means a foregone conclu-

■ Up for the Cup
There seems to have been more talk about draws than football matches recently, with the FA Cup third round pitching us, spectacularly, against Manchester United in the new year. I swear Steve Clarke is clairvoyant. As we trav-



elled back from the 6-1 victory at Spurs, he was telling anyone who would listen that we were certain to draw our Old Trafford rivals. Twenty-four hours later, bingo!

Some people will no doubt try to turn it into a grudge game after there was talk of trouble in the tunnel when we played at Old Trafford earlier this season. As professionals, we must put such things aside and devote all our energies and concentration to

That encounter, however, did teach us that you cannot afford to let your guard slip for a second

against United. We were leading right until the end and felt we could win, until Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored with an unbelievable shot to make it 2-2. We won at Old Trafford the season before, though, so we know we are capable of beating them.

While it will undoubtedly be an emotional and frantic match for the fans, the players will not be under any illusions that the result has anything to do with the outcome of the Premiership. People will try to say that victory will set that team up for the rest of the season, but that is not how

footballers' minds work. There are 100 many variables.

Which brings me to Chelsea's position, second in the Premiership and three points behind United. I think it is fair to say that not many people could see us bothering the champions and threatening to steal their crown earlier this season. After the first four or five games, there were already many questions being asked about our credentials as

challengers, I hope we are starting to show that people should bite their tongue and that short-term conclusions are dangerous. If those professional pundits had waited five months instead of five match-es, they could have seen what is happening at Chelsea.

We have not won anything yet, but it seems amazing that people were so quick to criticise Gianfranco Zola, for example, and say that he was not the same player as last season. I think that the last couple of weeks have shown that he is still the Zola who can turn games with a stroke of

Much the same can be said of the defence, which took real criticism from the start when we lost 3-2 away to Coventry City. Now we have the fourth best defensive record in the Premiership.

That is not to say that we cannot improve and this is a very impor-

(19) Brentford v B (20) Burnley v Wo (21) Carliste v Full (22) Chesterheld v

(22) Chesterheld v (23) Gillingam v (24) Plymouth v N (25) Preston v No (26) Watsall v Sou (27) Wattord v Bris (28) Wycombe v C (29) York v Wresh

tant month. December is such a vital time in the English league, with so many games crammed together over Christmas, and we must keep the winning going to

stay up with the leaders. It just amazes me that people are so quick to judge, though. At least they are talking about us, I suppose. We must be doing something right. What is worse than indifference?

Happy Christmas

Talking of Christmas, this will be my last column before Christmas Day. As I mentioned above, it is not an easy time for footballers because of all the games played in such a short space of time. No other country in Europe insists on anything like it. Here, matches on Boxing Day mean training the day before, when everyone else is sat around the tree opening presents.

At this time of year, as a footballer, it is very easy to become preoccupied with work and forget your family duties. Being a foreign player, it makes it even harder. because you are separated from those closest to you back home.

Last year, my father had a heart scare and now my father-in-law has a similar problem, so my wife and I are doing our best to be close to them. We are praying for good health and I wish you all a good Christmas and happiness for you

#### FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

#### (Last week's position in brackets) A 1. MANCHESTER UTD (1) 27 6-2-2 2. CHELSEA (2) 6 0 25 7-0-3 **W**3 3. BLACKBURN BOVERS (3). W<sub>1</sub> 17 33 +12 10 5-4-1 4. ARSENAL (5) 30 5 2 W1 18 13 4-3-3 30 13 11 5 7-2-1 **D1** 13 6. LEICESTER CITY (6) 27 3 **D1** +7 5 2 12 . 9 2 10 3-4-3 7. DEREY COUNTY 191 16 26 W1 2 0 19 6 5-2-3 8. LIVERPOOL (7): 25 5 3 2 19 Ì 9. NEWCASTLE UTDER 2 3-3-4 2 12 10 6: 10. WIMBLEDON (11) 11 3 11. WEST HAM UTERSON TO THE WAY 8 22 4-0-6 2 W1 **12. ASTON VILLA (14)** 3-3-4 13. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (15) 17 21 17 1 2 5 13 25 **W**4 5-1-4 14. CRYSTAL PALACE (12) 20 0 5 2 3 D1 -5 5 12 11 2-5-3 17 19 15. BOLTON WANDERERS (13) 1 3 .5 21 L1 -11 8 3-3-4 16, COVENTRY CITY (16) 17 2 10 1 2 5 3 14 L3 17 -11 10 1-5-4 7 5 L3 17. SOUTHAMPTON (17) 17 16 15 13 1 0 14 4-0-6 2 **18. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (18)** 3 8 1 5 14 .16 6 2-2-6 14 -11 3 1-3-6 **D1** 19. EVERTON (20) 13 0 6 5 14 17 13 4 11 2 0 7 27 L2 20. BARNSLEY (19) 17 13 · 5 8 18

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<ul><li>Sheffield Wed</li></ul>	30	1.76	Chelsea -	17	24
7. Liverpool	27	1,69	Coveritry	6	7
8. Leeds	26	,1.53	Crystal Palace	9	. 8
· 9, West Ham	24	1.41	Derby	14	16
10. Leicester	22	1.29	Everton	6	10
11. Newcastle	18 (	1.20	Leeds Utd	15	11
<ol><li>Southampton</li></ol>	20	1.18	Leicester	. 8	. 14
13. Wimbledon	19	1.12	Liverpool _	6	21
=. Aston Villa	19	1.12	Manchester Utd	17	26
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1. Manchester Utd

Everton

Southampton

19. Sheffield Wed

17. Tottenham

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Arsenal Aston Villa

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Sutton (Blackburn)	11
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	10
Cole (Manchester Utd)	10
Wright (Arsenal)	10
Baiano (Derby)	9
Gallacher (Blackburn)	8
Wallace (Leeds)	8
Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	7
Davies (Southampton)	7
Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	7
Dublin (Coventry)	7.
Fowler (Liverpool)	7
Sheringham (Manchester Utd)	7
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Blake (Bolton)	6
Wanchope (Derby)	6
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Aston Villa

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99%	Arsenal	9	30,012
90%	Aston Villa	9	27,246
100%	Bamsley	9	29,712
77%	Blackburn	8	28,826
96%	Bolton	9	22,403
99%	Chelsea	10	30,070
80%	Coventry	8	27,980
86%	Crystal Palace	10	25,785
83%	Derby	8	29,125
89%	Everton	9	29,079
87%	Leeds	8	23,278
94%	Leicester	7	28,222
98%	Liverpool	8	30,054
98%	Manchester Utd	9	32,018
100%	Newcastle	6	28,423
65%	Sheffield Wed	8	28,773
100%	Southampton	8	28,970
80%	Tottenham	8	29,277
96%	West Ham	10	29,352
63%	Wimbledon	7	27,047

" red card downgraded to yello

20

CAUTIONS

Cards issued

1. Everton

Arsenal

Bolton 7. Cheises 8. West Ham

10. Blackburn 11. Sheffield Wed 12 Liverpool Tottenham 14. Southampton Wimbledon Barnslev 19. Leicester

20. Aston Villa

2. Coventry

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	- 1	NTERNET
•	FA Premiers	hip clubs' official websites
2	Arsenal	www.arsenst.co.uk
,	Aston Villa	www.astonville-fc.co.uk
	Barnsley	
		rkshire-web.co.uk/bic/BFC.HTML
	Blackburn	www.tovatarco.nk
	Balton	www.boltonwic.co.uk
	Chelsea	www.chelsezic.co.uk
	Covertry	www.cdc.co.ish
	C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
1	Derby	
	Eventón	evertorric.merseyworld.com
1	Leeds	www.iufc.co.uk
1	Leicester	www.icfc.co.uk
ı	Liverpool	· -
	Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
	Newcastin	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nuto
1	Shelf Wed	— i
ŀ	Southampton	www.scton.ac.uk/~seints
۱-	Totterhem	www.spurs.co.uk
Ì	West Ham	www.westhemunied.co.uk
١	Wimbledon	_

WEEKEND	MATCHES
TODAY	Vauxhell Conference
Kick-off 3 0 inless stated — denotes alk-ticket Pools coupon numbers at brackets in Premarship formers i denotes solid out otherwise seats available	
(1) † Arsenai v Blackburn (2) † Barnsley v Newcasile (3) † Chelsea v Leeds (4) Covertry v Totterham (5) † Crystal Palace v Liverpool (6) Evenor v Wimbledon (7) † Southampton v Lescester	() Leek v Flatilax () Northwich v Southport () Rushden and Diamonds v Dover () Slough v Kidderminster () Stalybridge v Tellord () Woking v Hayes
(7) † Southampton v Leicester (B) West Harn v Shetfield Wednesday	Bell's Scottish League Premier division
Nationwide League First division (9) Birmingham v Manchester City (10) Bradford v Bury	(40) Cettic v Hearts
(11) Charaon v Port Vale (12) Huddersfield v Norwich	First division
(13) Ipswich v Portsmouth (14) Middlesbrough v Reading (15) Shefheld Urd v Swindon (16) Stockport v Transpere (17) Shrike v Creuse	(45) Ayr v St Mirren (46) Dundee v String (47) Greenock Monten v Falkrik (48) Hamilton v Andrie (49) Partick v Raith
(18) Sunderland v West Bromwach P W D L F A Pts	Second division
13  Sunderland v West Bromwich   .	() Ciydebank v Inverness CT () East Fife v Brechin
Sunderland 20 9 6 5 90 21 33 Stockport 21 9 5 7 35 29 32 Molverhampton 21 9 5 7 27 25 32 Gradierd 21 7 9 5 21 21 30 Seminary 21 7 7 7 21 12 38 1	() Arbroath v Cowdenbeath
OPR 21 7 6 8 26 33 27 Port Vale . 21 7 5 9 25 26 26 Stoke 21 7 5 9 24 28 26 Norwich 21 7 5 9 20 31 26	— Ross County v Dumbarton  Tennerits Scottish Cup First round  —) Fraserburgh v Clyde
manuring	DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier dw Atherstone v St Leonards; Bath v Burton A Bromsgrove v Salsbury; Crawley v Me Dembers v Callebury; Crawley v Me

1 4 9 8 21 30 21	Dorchester v Cambridge City; Forest Green v
0 5 5 10 26 32 20 1 5 5 11 24 32 20	Nuneaton, Gresley v Ashtord, Hestings v King's
11 4 9 8 21 30 21 10 5 5 10 25 32 20 11 5 5 11 24 32 20 11 5 5 11 21 34 20 11 5 3 13 24 36 18	Lynn: Rothwell v Halesowen: Sittingbourne v
1 5 5 11 21 34 20	Tamworth, Worcester City v Gloucester, Southern
1 5 3 13 24 36 18	division: Baldock v Tonbridge Angels, Bashley v
iding last riight's match	Erith and Betwedere, Cirenceste: Town v
	Condentord: Clevedon v Fisher London, Dartlord v
	Weston-super-Mare: Havani v Trowbudge: Mar-
Stackpool	cate v Newport AFC: Newport IoW v Witney:
gan	Waterlooville v Fleet   Midland division: Brackley
ham	Town v Stafford; Grantham v Corby, Hinckley Utd v
y Lulon	RC Warvick, Illeston v Bedworth; Redditch v
	Belston, Shepshed D v VS Rugby, Solihuli Boro v
Southend	Raunds T. Stourbridge y Pager R. Sutton Coldileld
viilwai	Town v Moor Green, Wisbech Town v Evesham
orthampton	
umemouth	RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheshem v
istol City	Kingstonon, Dulwich v Basingstoke: Enfield v
Oldham	Hitchin: Gravesend and Northfleet v Bishop's
nam	Stortlord: Hendon v Walton and Hersham.
PWDL FAPts	Heybridge v Harrow, Oxford City v Dagenham and
1 15 4 2 36 14 49	Redbridge: Purties v Carshation; St Albans v
7 15 4 2 36 14 49 1 14 3 4 38 17 45	Bromley, Stitton United v Aylesbury, Yeading v
1 9 7 5 36 27 34	Boreham Wood First division: Abingdon Town v
1 9 7 5 36 27 34 1 8 9 4 22 17 38 0 9 5 6 27 21 32	Romford, Aldershor Town v Maidenhead, Barton
1 8 9 4 22 17 33 0 9 5 6 27 21 32	Rovers v Wolungham, Billencay v Leatherhead;
0 9 5 6 27 21 32 1 1 8 8 5 23 15 32 1	Bognor Regis v Theme Utd. Chertsey v Grays:
1 8 6 7 26 24 30	Croydon v Wembley, Hampton v Worthing, Leyton
1 8 8 5 23 15 32 1 8 6 7 26 24 30 1 7 9 5 23 21 30	Pennant v Berkhamsted, Uxbndge v Staines,
1 8 5 8 29 32 29	Whyleleafe v Molesey Second division: Edgware
1 8 6 7 26 24 30 1 30 1 8 5 8 29 32 29 0 7 8 5 27 23 29 1 7 7 7 7 7 7 29 28	v Brackneil, Egnam v Canvey Island; Horshem v
0 7 6 5 27 23 25 1 1 6 4 9 27 21 28 1	Barking: Hungertord v Windsor and Elon; Marlow v
1 8 4 9 27 21 28	Wivenhoe; Banslead v Bedford T; Northwood v
1 8 4 9 27 21 28 1 7 7 7 27 29 28 1 7 7 7 24 23 28 0 7 7 6 23 18 28	Metropolitan Police, Tilbury v Challont St Peter.
1 7 7 7 24 23 28 0 7 7 6 23 18 28	Third division: Croydon v Wingete and Finchley.
1 7 7 7 24 23 28 0 7 7 6 23 18 28 1 7 6 8 26 30 27	East Thurrock v Dorlong; Epsom and Ewell v Ware:
1 7 6 8 26 30 27 0 7 5 8 22 24 26 1 5 8 8 28 33 23 0 6 4 10 28 33 22	Harlow v Clapton: Homehurch v Tring: Kingsbury v
0 7 5 8 22 24 26	Ford Utd; Lewes v Heritord, Southall v Flackwell
1 5 8 8 28 33 23 0 6 4 10 28 33 22	Heath.
0 6 4 10 28 33 22	UNIBOND LEAGUE; Premier division: Accrington
1 8 8 5 23 15 20 17 18 6 7 26 24 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	Stanley v Altrincham; Alfreton v Colwyn Bay;

I	Luton	v Bamber Bridge: Chorley v Spennymoor, Emley v Manne, Gansborough v Bishop Auckland, Lan-
ŀ	Cartisle 21 4 4 13 24 41 16 not including last night's match	caster v Leigh RMI, Radcliffe v Runcom, First division: Belper Town v Ashlon United, Congleton v Gretna; Droytsden v Netherfield, Farsley Celtic v
ļ	Third division	Eastwood Your: Fliston v Lincoln United, Mattock
Ì	(30) Barnet v Macclesfield	Town v Great Harwood, Stocksbridge PS v Harrogate Town, Whatby v Worksop, Whitley Bey v
l	(31) Cardiff v Paterborough (32) Chester v Darlington	Bradford Pk Avis: Workington v Albion. LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Connah's
İ	ISS) HUR V COICTIESTET	Quay (2.30); Bangor Cay v Cwmbran (2.0); Barry v
ı	(34) Unceln v Hartlepool	Wetshpool (2:30), Caemarton v Bobw Vale (2:30); Carmarthen Town v Rhyl (2:0); Cemaes Ymys Mon
ı	(36) Notis County v Doncaster	v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30); Conwy v Rhavader Town
ı	(37) Rochdale v Swansea	(2.30), First Town v Caersws (2.30); Porthmadog v Haverlordwest (2.30); TNS v Newtown (2.0)
١	(39) Sounthorpe v Scarborough	FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier
ļ	() Shrewsbûry v Leyton Orient	division: Finn Harps v Shamrock (7 30); Sligo v Kilkenny (7 30).
l	Lincoln . 21 11 7 3 23 16 40	
l	Lincoln 21 11 7 3 23 16 40 Peterborough 21 10 9 2 39 19 39 Notts County 21 10 8 3 29 21 38	TOMORROW

30 23 35 FA Carling Premier

apper 21 8 8 5 34 31 32 23 20 20 12 17 17 17 17 18 20 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32	Bolton v Derby (4 0) Nationwide League First division Wowerhampton v Nortingham Forest (1 0) DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Chelmstord v Weymouth FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohermani: v Dundelk (3.15); Cork. v Drogheda (2.0); UCD v Derry (3.15) FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal v Wernbisy (12 0); Corydon v Uverpool (2 0); Milliwall v Donosciaer (2 0). North- ern division: Arnold v Blyth Spartans, Aston Villa v Gardwood St Hallers, Hudderfield v Biomanch Town: Sheffled Wednesday v Ression. Southern division: Igoruch v Wimbisdor; Leyton Orient v Berry Rushden and Diamonds v Whitehawk. Southampton Sants v Three Bridges
COVERAGE	IT'S THE NEW AWAY STRIP



Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

6 30pm RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Today; Live commentary (tbc) in Sport on Five, from Ipm Tomorrow: Live commentary or Wolvies v Notingham Forest and Bolton v Dorby in Sunday Sport, from Ipm

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SAILING

### Leaders seeking to stamp authority over short course

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER two legs and two months of the Whitbread Round the World Race, we are still a long way short of a clear picture of which of the leading seven boats are going to be in the hunt for overall honours by the time the fleet returns to Southampton in May. Today, the Whitbread 60s race-winning positions.

begin the first of four short legs in the nine-leg regatta. as they set sail from Fremantle for Sydney, a journey of some 2,250 miles, which should take the leading boats around nine days. Perhaps by then we will have a better idea about which crews have the edge, though another peculiar pattern could assert itself on a fleet in which the boats seem to be very closely matched.

Grant Dalton, skipper of Merit Cup. who will be desperate to put the horrible memories of the previous leg behind him, when he was seventh into Fremande, believes the class acts have yet to rise above the also-rans. "It's so mixed up with the changes from the first leg to the second leg, I couldn't really split it apart at this stage and say where the form is." he said before the start. "One would have really expected to be able to do so by now, but we're sort of in a haze still of not

The experience of the first two legs has driven home to skippers and navigators that

the smallest slip or lucky break with conditions can lead to big gains in boats that respond dramatically to even marginal increases in wind pressure. Even on this short leg, with the Australian coast cramping the course and, thus, restricting options, early gains may well be turned into

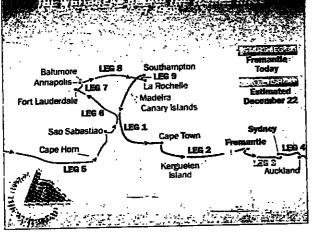
So far, only one boat, Innovation Kvaerner, skippered by Knut Frostad, of Norway, has managed to compile two topthree finishes and is the

#### POSITIONS

Uverhald, terrer tree 1999 1, moradon Wagerrer (Nort 207)rts; 2, EF Language (Swet 197, 3, Silk Cur (GB) 168, 4, Swedish March (Swe) 161, 5, Ment Cup (Monacc) 158; 6, Toshibe (US) 157; 7, Chesse Racing (US) 132; 8, EF Education Could Co. 1, 9, pp. 408, march (Morit 24)

narrow overall leader from EF Language, skippered by Paul Cayard, which won the first leg but slipped to fifth in the second. If Frostad's experience tells us anything, it is that being prepared to sail your own race and not simply setting out with a conservative strategy of trying to stick with the pack can pay dividends in this race.

Although the mid-fleet overpositions remain close, with only 11 points separating Lawrie Smith. on Silk Cut. in third place, from his fellow



Briton, Paul Standbridge, on Toshiba, in sixth place, there is no doubt that the pressure for results is beginning to build for some crews and could influence tactics.

Smith knows that he is very lucky to be third overall after two fourth places, and he will be keen to get on the podium for the first time in Sydney. This will help to dispel the impression that Silk Cut, while fast, is not a contender for overall honours.

The big worries for Smith must be Frostad and Cayard. With 40 and 30-point margins respectively over him, both could again prosper on this leg. Frostad's strong team on Kvaerner is bolstered with the arrival of the multiple Olympic medal-winner Torben Grael, of Brazil, who with Marcel van Triest, the navigator, completes a formidable afterguard on the Norwegian boat Cayard, meanwhile, is likely to do well in a relatively short-course race and starts with the best routing advice in the fleet for this leg, from Roger "Clouds" Badham, the Australian meteorologist, who is working exclusively with the EF campaign.

Other boats to watch are BrunelSunergy, which has four new crew on board. including Roy Heiner, the skipper, who will be anxious to prove that the lone non-Farr boat in the nine-strong fleet can do better than two last places. Chessie Racing also has a new skipper with George Collins, the campaign owner, taking over from Mark Fischer, who has been sacked.

Assisting Collins is the talented and experienced American John Kostecki, who could give Chessie a new lease of life. Gunnar Krantz's Swedish Match remains something of a mystery after coming eighth and then first, when she was so far ahead she was in a different weather system and it was difficult to judge her performance against the chasing pack. This time, Krantz may finally discover whether his boat has pace or not.

John Hopkins finds Picabo Street frustrated but cheerful

Sun Valley girl ready to shine again

tart, swish, swoosh, finish. That is a downhill ski race. The speck in the distance is upon you in the blinking of an eye and gone again in a shower of snow, an exhalation of breath.

For all this, skiing involves a lot of waiting around - for the snow to start or stop falling, or as in Val d'Isère these past few days, for the rain to cease.

Hundreds of skiers are in the French town for the start of the Alpine racing season - the 42eme Criterium International de la première neige - a season that has particular relevance because the Winter Olympics are only two months away. Few skiers are waiting more anxiously than Picabo Street, 26, the silver medal-winner in the downhill at the Lillehammer Olympics, who is making her comeback after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee last

December. Picabo peeped out at the rain and summoned that trademark dazzling smile. "I am pleased to be back," she said, despite the super giant slalom race, which had been postponed from Tuesday to yesterday, being put off again until next Thursday.

From the exoticism of her Christian name which means Shining Water in an American Indian tongue, to the dazzling skill of her noholds barred style, Street is one of the stars of skiing, the winner of World Cup downhill titles in 1995 and 1996. She is the only woman used by Nike, the sports goods manufacturers, to advertise their products. She may be a millionairess as a result but her's is no easy life.

A year away from ski racing was a fierce test of the patience of someone as active as Street. She swam, played the piano, went to the beach as well as undergoing therapy and physical rehabilitation for up to six hours each day. 'It was not the worst I

have ever known," Street said. "It was an opportunity for me to get to know myself better, for personal growth." And she cried. During a training run in Chile, intended to test out her knee, Street skied off the piste and col-

lapsed in the snow. And she

wept tears of frustration



when her comeback was postponed in Colorado last month. "I knew I was not ready for it," the girl from Sun Valley said, "I did not want to face the pressure of skiing in the US when everyone would have been on top of me, all the journalists asking questions."

Delaying her comeback was the idea of Herwig Demschar, the Austrian who is the coach to the United States women's team. "She is only 80 per cent," Demschar said yesterday. "Don't expect anything from her yet. She has to get the shivers out of her system. I want to get her into a starting gate for her to have some fun

A few weeks ago Street bought a puppy, now being looked after at home in the United States by the parents who had played peek-a-boo with her when she was tiny. "The dog is sweet," she said. "It's tiny. I'm going to bring with me to Europe next

year. I'm going to ski with it inside here." She smiled and patted her ski jacket beneth

her chin. "I battled depression within the first month." Street has said of her absence. "It was watching my body change after five or six years of vigorous training. I just shred layers, especially from

my left leg. I'd catch myself sitting in my room looking at my little atrophied leg and just crying."

This leg looks normal now, though. On Thursday afternoon, Street played volleyball with her American team-mates for an hour. Wearing a white sweatshirt and blue Lycra shorts, she demonstrated a powerful

overante serve. Although she bounced around the court, Street, who is known for her exuberance, seemed a litte muted. "She is trying to mingle with the younger ones," Demschar explained. "It is a very compact group and she is the oldest and somewhat out on her own. The kids are one or two years away from producing anything. But Picabo is very good for them to look up to and see what hard work and talent can do." Much of the rest of the

Street smiling through inquiring fournation

have had great training these past two weeks." Demschar said. There is no big prob-lem with the knee. She is more focused now than she

pari Ha

But there is simply no gagging Street. After posing for photographs yesterday she sheltered from the rain at the St Hubert hotel, where the women's team is staying. Wearing a ski jacket and voluminous trousers, she liddled with her black woollen hat as she talked, rolling and unrolling it in her hands Occasionally she touched her right ear, where an earring dangled from the

really good start," she said of the position she had been allocated before the Super-G race was postponed. But there you go. I am back. I'm not expecting to win. Pernilla (Wiberg, of Sweden) is aim-ing for the Olympics. That's

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#### **SQUASH**

#### **England** score a treble in doubles

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN HONG KONG

ENGLAND reached the semi-

finals in all three world douchampionships here yesterday, but not in the commanding form shown through the previous rounds. After the euphoria of Thursday's HK\$52,000 lottery win by the two British singles champions, Mark Cairns and Sue Wright, the workload increased for their partners. Chris Walker and Cassandra Jackman, as they defeated the United States 15-6, 15-13 in a 37-minute mixed doubles quarter-final early yesterday to reach the semi-final against Canada today.

The England quartet then contrived to lose the final qualifying matches of the men's and women's doubles to New Zealand.

The 75-minute 10-15, 15-11, 13-15 loss to the New Zealand men changed nothing. Cairns and Walker remained on top of group B, with New Zealand edged out of second place by the sparkling Malaysian combination of Kenneth Low and Michael Soo. In group A. Australia deleated Pakistan to finish top, which means that England face Zubair Jahan and Amjad Khan in today's crossover semi-finals while Australia play Malaysia.

in the women's doubles, a 21-minute 9-15, 11-15 loss to New Zealand, finished indicatively on a tired, forehand tinned error from Jackman. might have been expected to put England in to a semi-final today against the previously undefeated Australian combination of the world singles champion, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, and Carol Owens.

The Australians, however, lost 12-15, 17-15, 15-13 to Claire Nitch and Natalie Grainger. of South Africa, who will now face England today, while Philippa Beams and Leilani Joyce carry the New Zealand assault to the world champion and her partner.

#### GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

#### TODAY FOOTBALL

Genavon, Portadown v Crusades. First division: Bengor v Dungarmon Swifts: Carlick v Larne; Lmavady Utd v Distillery. Newly v Bahyclare. COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Swindon Supermarine; Burnharn v Fatrorch Hallow Abrigdon: Harrow Hill v Highworth; Shortwood v Endsteigh; Tuffeey v Kintbury. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE:
First division: Bifungham v RTM Newcestle:
Conset v Shidor: Crock v South Shield:
Jarrow Roofing v Easington CWM; Morpeth
v Munton: Pennith v Durham.

y Munton; Pennin V Dumain.
Winstoni Ead XENT LEAGUE: First division: Chathern v Whitstable Town: Cray v Contriben; Crookenhili v Ramsgate; Enth v Canterbury, Swanley Furness v Deal; Thamasmeed v Hythe; Turbindge Wells v Stede Green; VCD v Lordswood. Septe Green; Y.J. Y Lordswood.

SCREWFIX DIRECT - LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple y Bristol Manor Farm, Bidelord y Bedtwell; Bristington y Mangotsfield Utd; Emore y Odd Down, Keynsham y Tormgton, Melksham y Caine; Paulton R y Westbury.

Paulton R v Westbury.

MINERYA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Barlangside v Russip Manor: Brinsdown v Islington: Coddosters v St Margaretsbury. Harelisel v Harveel: Haringey Boro v Beecondiseld: Hillingdom Boro v Watham Abbey Premier division north: Bedford v Welwyn Garden; Biggleswade v London Colney: Hoddesdom v Latchworth Langtord v Harpanden: Royston v Meton Kaynes O'Brien Butchers premier division Cup: First round, first leg: Woodford v Toddington.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Float

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Mitwell (11.0), Chariton's Gillingham (11.0); Futham v Tottenham (11.0); Norwich v Ipswich (11.0); Portemoutri v Leyton Onert (11.0); Southend v Cystal Palace (11.0); West Ham v Carnadge Urd (11.0); West Ham v Carnadge Urd (11.0); Second division: Bournemouth v Reading (11.0); Estoi Rovers v Luton (11.0); Orderd Ura v Brighton (11.0); Southampton v Wycombe (11.0); Southampton v Wycombe (11.0); Swindom v Brasiol Cay (11.0); Tottenham v Barnet (11.0); Wimbledon v Brestiord (11.0); HISSIGH HISSIGH MISSIGNANCE MIDLAND

Brentlord (11.0).

NDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND
COMBINATION: Premier division: Continental Star v Colesthil: Chastyn Hay v
Dudley Sports, Handrahan Timbers v
Studiey Rd. Hajhgale v Dawd Loyd APC.
President's Carp: Newhall v Northfield;
Thimblama Rec v Alasston

OLD BORDS. LEAGUE: Premier divisions. IMPROPRIATE PRESENT AMESION:
GIVE DOYS: LEAGUE: Premier division:
GIVE OB V Old Sutionians; Old Hamptonians V Cardinal Manning OB, Senior first division: Old Islevorthers V Chercay OS, Old Kingsbunans V Old Manorians; Old Religations V Old Salvelonans; Phoenix OB V Old Buckwellians

Buchwesans
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division:
Chigwelliams v Carthuslans: Etonians v
Foresters: Salopians v Brentwoods, Arthur
Dunn Cup: Bradfieldiens v Eastbournians;
Haberdashers v Wykehemists.

Haberdashors v Wykohemists.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Second roland: Carshalton v Civil Servoet; City of London v Crouch End Verriphres; Latymer OB v Old Selesians; Norsemen v Southgele County; Old Aloysans v Old Wilsonians; Old Bromleans v Old Wasghanians; Old Bromleans v Notisborough; Old Ingelians v Old Cholmeleans; Old Latymenens v Alexandra Park, Old Mothendinians v Natiwest Berth, Old Owens v Midlend Berth; Old Stationers v Entitled OS; Old Tiffinlans v East Barnet OG; Polytechnia v Bardans Sank; Wake Green v Old Tenlsoriens; West Wicklam v Lensbury

Wichiam v Lensulry
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Actonisms v Lloyds Beink, South Bank Polyv
Old Parmhariams; Cusco v Winchmore Hill;
Old Lyonsans v Old Parlonusms; Kew
Association v Southgate Olympic:
Brentham v Menton, Alleyn OB v Old
Westmanter Ctz Broomfield v libs NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collectes v Holler Old

vision: Southend Manor v Burnham Rem-blers; East Hern v Elon Manor: Illord v Concord Rangers: Sawandoeworth v

Walsatt Wood; Tividale v Cradley Town.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGulle: Premier division: Claston v Dss;
Felvenham v Halstead; Gorleston v
Felvestowe Port and; Harwich and
Parkeston v Bury Town; Newmarket v
Watton; Stowmarket v Soham; Tiptnee v
Lowestoft Wedfolya v Great Yamouth
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier division: Bourne v Long
Buckby; Buddingham v St Naors;
Desborough v Potton; Eymesbury v
Cogenhoe; Kempaton v S and L Corby,
Northampton Spencer v Holloeach;
Wellingborough v Wootton; Yadey v
Mirriess Blackstone

Cogentines; Kempeten v S and L Corby, Northampton Spencer v Hobeach; Wellingborough v Woorton; Yadey v Minness Blackstone UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Mile Oak; Chichester v Rechilt; Eastbourne Town v Paghom; Hallsham v Hessocks; Ringmer v Shoreham; Salsey v Horsham YMCA, Whitehank v Portifick Wick v Saltdean FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third round: Marska v Bedington Terriers; Stockton v Burscough; Mossley v W Auckland; Poulkon v Kdsgrove Ah; Tow Law v Dunston Fed Brewery, Billingham Town v Finar Lane OB. Amold v N Feriby; Cithence v Boston; Oadby Town v Seaham Red Ster; Engg Town v Huderal Town; Denaby v Barstalt; Thackley v Stamford; Blowkich Town v Spatiding; Bramtine v Barstead Ah; H Hempotised v Taunton; Lymington v Woodbnody Town; Bodinin v Bowers; Wimbome v Tiverton; Basidon v Herne Bay; Cowes Sports v Chard, Porthiwern v Arisesy Town; Bridport v Potters Bar; Folkestone Invoca v Chipstead; Brook House v Histon; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Suction; Aveley v Windham; Stoffold v Ashford (Middd; Theachem Town v Burgess Hit; Greet Walvering Rvs v Weeklstone; Brache Sparta v By; Chippenham v Tooling and Mitcham, Camberley Town v Sudoury Wndrs.

Windrs.
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M v Wednesfield; Chasetown v Oldbury; Halesowen H v Kings Norton; Rushad Ov Berwell; Sandwell v Kings Norton; Rushad Ov Bernell; Sandwell v Kings Neston; V; Stratlord T v W Mid Police; Willenhall v Bridgnorth.
NORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE.
Premier division: Amrithorpe Welfage v

Ossati Town
APREMIER VOLITH LEAGUE: Chelsea v
Arsenal (10.45); Crystal Pelace v
Southampton (11.0); Derby v Nottinghem
Forest (11 0); Leeds v Middlesbrough (1.0);
Cusens Park Rangers v West Hern (11.0);
Sunderland v Barnsley (11 0); Tottenham v
Wimbledon (11.0);

#### RUGBY LEAGUE Kick-off 2.0 unless stated .

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: First-round replay: Folly Lene v Normaniton (1 30).

NATIONAL CONFERIENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Assam v West Hull (2.30).

Beverley v Walney Centrat: Dubley Hill v Saddleworth (2.30): Egemond v Woodston: Look Lene v Wigan St Petnok's; Mayfield v Heworth: Otharn St Arme's v Lengh Kiners First division: Bernow Island v Milliond; East Leeds v Outlon: Lengh East v Thomhit: Rednil v Blackbrook: Shaw Cross v Eastmoor, Storlaugh v Moldgreen; Wigan St Jude's v Millon. Second division: Crostelds v Dodworth: Eccles v Feetherstone Ametauc; Hull Dockers v Dewisbury Moor (2.30): Siddel v London Students; York Accom v Ovenden.

ESIL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League; Beckerham v Anchorans; Bournamouth v Essitore; City of Portsmouth v Puray;

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division. Ben

Rhydding v Formby, Durham University J Swalwell, Harrogate v Tambarley, Norton v Wigan, Norton v Shetheld Bankers, South-port v Chester port v Chester
WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East
Bury St Edmunds v Sevenoaks: Comondos
City v Ashford: St Albans v Ipswich: Wetwyr
Garden City v Harleston West Chetrarham
v Yate; Eveler v Bournerhouth, Exmouth v
Colwalt: Leominster v Redland: Taunton
Vale v St Austet

obdance votation boson organisation middleweight championiship vocanti R Rhodes (Shetheid) v O Grant (Can), Lightweltenweight: J Hara (Robestson) v B Pryce (Neuport); Weltenweight: J Khaiq (Nottingham) v M Holgate (Valdhamstow) (al Ponds Forge, Shelfield) CYCLING: Chesterfield Sou

Parity, noon, 10E HOCKEY: Superleague: Nottingham Paritiers v Manchester Storm (7.0) Bracknell Bees v Cardiff Devilt. (6.0). Basingstoke Bison v Ayr Scotton Eagles (6.30).

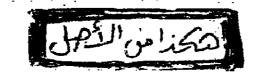
#### TOMORROW

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premer division:
Barlord Tigers y Technigitor (at Alument Community Centro, Walsall, 2-3). Camnob.

y Old Loughtonans (at Morris Ground 230); Canterbury & Sast Grassead at Polo Farm, 1.0; Hourslow y Guidrord (at Dules Meadows, 2.0); Reading y Donaster (at Sorning Lane, 2.0); Southgate y Seesten (at Trent Park, 2.0). First division: Frebrands y Cofford Unversity (at Longwood, Bristol, 12.0); Gloucester City. Bromsey (at Plock Court, 1.30). Hempstead and what-minister y Loughborough Studente (at Tigers). Pool: Court. 1 30). Hampstead and wheat marster v. Loughborough Students (at Paddington Recreation Ground 12:30). Harteston Maggies v Bournate at Shortore Heath, 2:01. Hazarti v. Chelmotod (at Havant College, 2:0). Lewes v Shenheid (at Havant College, 2:0). Lewes v Shenheid (at Southdown Calb. 1:30); Ordord Humba v Brooklands (at Barbury Read 2:0). St Albons v Isca (at Clarence Park 2:0). Stourport v Indeen Gyndhrana (at Kidder-marster School, 1:0). Surboton v Hull (at Sugden Road, 2:30). Wathragton v Blucherts (at Periketh County High School, 1:30).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League 8/m-ingham Butlets v Derby Storm (6:20). Un-ball Trophy: Group stages: Chester Jers v Leicester Riders (7:30). Sheifield Strake v Newcastle Eagles (6:0). CYCLING: National Trophy cyclo-cross (third round) (at Braunstone Park Locostar. 145).



### Clubs hoping to pick up on high note

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE swath of international matches played during the past month may have kept. rugby enthusiasts on the edge of their seats but the next month will show whether that interest transmits to the anxious inhabitants of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Anxious because they have had little to put on display, because gate, receipts have therefore plummeted and because their pri-mary problem — a sensible structured season — was a notable absence from the proposals put forward this

veck by Cliff Brittle. Brittle's vision for the future of English rugby received. predictably, a cautious and in

escape rouse for the ambitious clubs at the top of the Jewson. National League, which is the gangway between the amateur and professional games that the chairman of the Rugby Football Union man-

agement board envisages.
For this weekend, clubs in
the premiership's first and second divisions will be relieved to repossess their players and lure back their regular customers. Some have kept going thanks to the Chelten-. ham & Gloucester Cup; others have lain comparatively fallow, playing only against passing teams from overseas and development matches.

have played only one serious game since they beat Northampton on November 9 - if scoring 83 points against Tonga can be regarded as serious. They entertain Bath at Vicarage Road tomorrow and there could be no bigger draw, considering Bath's formidable reputation and their host of ernationals. Only Richard Butland of their team is uncapped and appears at fly half.

cussed against South Africa on November 29. "We finished the last run of competitive games on a winning note and we have enjoyed being top for a month," Peter Deakin, the Saracens commercial manager, said yester-

despite asking for a transfer, because Mike Catt was con-

of 7,500 and has been gratified by the media interest shown in the club's England players, Richard Hill, Kyran Bracken and Tony Diprose, Saracens will feature on the

Big Breakfast next Wednesday, which is just the kind of exposure they need to make an impact on the Watford community and ensure that their gates remain healthy, even when clubs with a limited following come calling. Sale today visit Leicester

and may give a debut to Duncan Beli, a 19st prop signed from Ebbw Vale. But of greater interest will be the effect that the past four weeks has had on Leicester's international contingent. "It could prove difficult getting going rector of rugby, said. Dwyer will give Fritz van Bates, their coach, said. Heerden, the South Africa

international, a debut at lock lethargy after the internationbut rests Neil Back and Richard Cockerill for a game that places England's two wings, Austin Healey and David Rees, in opposition. A third England wing, John Bentley, returns to the Newcastle side against Gloucester tomorrow and a fourth, Tony Underwood, is back after a four-

damaging a leg in August. Newcastle, who are to play Bath at the Gateshead Athletic Stadium next month to accomof 10,000, are the other unbeaton side in the division and have a game in hand on

month absence since

Saracens. "The players have worked hard this week, Steve They have had no time for

als. We have stressed to them that it will be like starting the season again, with a six-week burst to the end of January in which we seek to maintain our place in the league, make a good start to the cup and do well in the European

Liam Botham will make his debut for Cardiff in the Welsh League this afternoon, in opposition to Swansea's Scott Gibbs at the Arms Park. He will join Rob Howley, Nigel Walker and Jonathan Humphreys, an international trio, who are all fit to resume against the league leaders.

### New spirit of adventure lifts English game

ontrary though it may be to say so, it was probably better for English rugby that we did not beat New Zealand last Saturday. All the players were disappointed not to have done so and I believe that we should have done so, but we could not risk deluding ourselves that the necessary leap forward had been taken.

Although I was not involved, I suspect that there was an element of that when we beat the All Blacks in 1993. So far in 1997, we have only reached stage one of the process and the ambition is to get to stage ten. We have shown what we can do in a short space of time, but we have to continue improving at that rate because the World Cup isn't so far away.

That game four years ago was dreadful and the way rugby is played has changed on a global level. Most other countries seem to have changed faster than England: I think you can draw parallels with what is happening in England now and what happened in New Zealand when, first, they lost at Twickenham. then lost a home series with

They took a long, hard look at themselves and so must we. England are going through a lean spell — we have not won in six internationals - and we need to create an environment in which England can turn up at the 1999 World Cup with the best chance of winning. But that comes within the short-term aims; in the long term, the whole English game

needs to be in a position to benefit from what I hope will be a successful World Cup campaign.

The most positive element to have emerged from the past four weeks has been the ability players to

learn. I don't think that any England squad has faced a schedule such as that before, coming as it did in the middle of a hectic domestic programme, but as the games became harder, so our performances became better.

acter shown by everyone, players and management, were fantastic. During the first two games, against Australia and New Zealand at Old Trafford, there were areas in attack and defence where we were found wanting; we studied them, the coaching team analysed them and we were able to rectify the situation very quickly, which showed in the game last Saturday.

The players realise the need to score tries to win at that level and we went out with the right attitude and the willingness to be positive. It showed that we have the talent and the resources to challenge at the top level - though some of us will keep in mind the second half against South Africa, which turned out to be the most disappointing feature of the four weeks that we have spent together.

Against New Zealand at Twickenham, some of the players might have been forgiven for thinking, as the All Blacks cut back our early lead, that the second half was going to be like the South Africa game all over again — certainly many of the crowd may have thought that. The way the game is now, though, you have to be able to absorb pressure, to weather the

Second division south



storm, and good sides are defined by the character they show in those circumstances Not only did England hold on, we came back in the last ten minutes, levelled the scores and continued to try to win, which shows the desire in the squad to play for each other. The achievement was not the result, but the performance. Invariably in highlevel sport, if you control the performance, the result takes care of itself. The intention was always there, from the first game against Australia but scoring points proved more difficult.

We have also blooded new young players, such as Matt Perry and David Rees. They won't go into the World Cup feeling daunted by the chall-enge and that will be important if we are to

succeed. They will bank the ex-

nerience, do it all

over again next

summer, all being well, and

will have a fund

ability and character to take with

The players realise the need to score tries to win at this level'

them into 1999. At the same time, players such as Kyran Bracken have re-emerged. Kyran started his international career in that 1993 game with New Zealand and has had some ups and downs, but now we have two top-class scrum halves in him and Matt Dawson. They are an example of the competitive environment that Clive Woodward. the coach, wants to create in

the England squad. This weekend we return to club rugby and Wasps's meeting with Harlequins today is as important at that level as England's display against New Zealand was in international terms. I cannot afford any sense of anticlimax because Wasps need to get back to winning ways. Players need to perform consistently well, regardless of the environment and whether they are playing in front of 75,000 people or 5,000.

e are not worried about our position near the foot of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division. The spirit within the team burns brightly and the talent has not gone anywhere, even though we have been affected by injuries far more than last season.

We do have a rest next weekend, which may be no bad thing, but a good display today is important - because of our position, because it is a derby and the first of a Christmas double-header: a win will put us in good heart for our home Cup match with Ouins over the weekend of January 3-4.

#### David Hands meets a player whose positional switch secured his England place



Healey's move from sexum half to unorthodox wing threequarter, difficult to pin down, appealed to the England management willing to take a chance on his versatility

#### here was a moment during Healey motoring the summer tour to South Africa by the British Isles that appeared to unite the entire party. Forget about the bonding session pre-tour, the winning of in outside lane the series - it was the players' count session in Durban when Austin Healey, bound with black tape and an apple stuffed in his mouth, was

forced to stand silent in a corner as a punishment for his various misdemeanours, real or imagined: Healey's reputation as a motormouth has become, even for one aged only 24 and with a modest seven international appearances for England behind him one of rugby's criticism or banter. I was always small at school so I suppose you have to be sharp-witted, take the mickeylegends. He is a man who demands the last word, and usually gets it — he is the bee buzzing around the head of out of people as a form of escape." colleagues who, no matter how often

they try to swat him, always returns. the Christian Brothers college in It is an image to which Healey is Birkenhead where rugby was so happy enough to respond, which can strong that Healey required permission, and additional insurance, to mask his considerable footballing play football for Cheshire. Pootball vied with the game that Healey had ability and vision for the game that so distinguished his appearance on played in Birkenhead Park's mini-England's left wing in the epic 26-26 draw with New Zealand a week ago. rugby teams since the age of six, and Asked before his first full appearance at one stage there was some debate over the possibility of a professional for England (against Wales last March) what he believed his greatest strength was, he replied: "My abili-ty." Confidence? Not a problem, or so

he would have us believe. "I've never been one to smash a myth. I just carry it on really," he said, yet there is a level-headedness

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**ID** FECTURES

about Healey's clipped northern tones that belie the myth. "I suppose, you make. If I had made it to the top in football I would have been far in some ways, it's a front I put up to protect myself from any form of wealthier than I am now but I don't regret it — I've enjoyed my life and it's very rare that a footballer gets to play

in front of 75,000 people four weeks in School for Healey was St Anselm's, The point with Healey is that he takes an obvious pride in his performance, only he does not want the world to know. It is the same with his removal from scrum half to wing, for which Bob Dwyer, Leicester's director of rugby, takes responsibility. English rugby, so frequently formulaic, is unused to such changes

The French, some 30 years ago, did it successfully with the Lourdes fly half, Jean Gachassin, who won his first 15 When I was 15 I had the chance to caps on the wing before appearing in go for trials at one or two local clubs his club position. -Everton was one — but I didn't go,\* he said, "Perhaps I didn't think I had

It is a case of finding the scope for a footballer who brings to the position qualities that do not appear in the textbook on wing play, which is

Befitting his character, Healey will turn up like a jack-in-the-box, light on his feet, stepping first one way then the other and with the pace to burn through a gap when it appears. He was always a scrum half until, at 17, Waterloo moved him to the wing. He reverted at Orrell, after the retirement of Dewi Morris, and transferred to Leicester as a No 9 but the arrival of Waisale Serevi pushed him outward and, apparently, upward. "Playing wing has been forced upon me by Dwyer but it's worked out well being able to play scrum half meant I was almost guaranteed a

bench spot.
"I took my chances, trained as hard as I could and as well as I could. I think I took that attitude from Dewi because everyone remembers how he performed as a squad member after being dropped. There's no point being down and dismal in training -

"I went into last week's game with two aims. The first was to put pressure on my opposite number [Jeff Wilson] and on Christian Cullen.

He's a special player and it's probably a better feeling than any to get two hands and a shoulder on him and know that he's going down, that he's not going anywhere. "The other was to get my hands on the ball as often as possible in the opening 20 to 25 minutes. I did that, then I blew up for about ten minutes, had a rest and went back to being a

that was the attitude I took into

England's first three games and it paid off; I was selected for the fourth,

against New Zealand.

normal winger, which I shouldn't have done. "People say it was a great game but when I watched the video I saw things that we could have improved upon. It wasn't the fastest game I've played in, that would probably have been for the Lions against Gauteng, or possibly Free State. But in terms of all-round performance, it was one of the best individual displays by all 15 members of the team that I've been

involved in." That, when you think about it, is a penetrating remark, indicative of the degree of improvement this England side can make as a team unit. Healey wants to be part of that. We must be careful -- there is some danger that he will be putting his money, and his talent, where his mouth is.

#### RUGBY UNION STATISTICS TOP TRY-SCORERS TOP POINTS-SCORERS Lge Eur Int

it in me at that stage to be a footballer

and I was going better with the rugby

	9 T Castaignede (Castres)	21 23 3 145   PSeint-Andrel	(Gloucester) 2 4 2 8 (ewcastle) 7 8
	TRIES PER MATCH	FEWEST TRIES CONCEDED  P Tr Avge	P W D L % 1 Newcasile
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l	4 Toulouse 12 50 4.17 5 Swerses 11 43 3.91 6 Richmond 11 41 3.73	4 Pau 12 15 1.25 5 Boundin 11 15 1.26 6 Mondenand 12 18 1.50 7 Narbonne 11 17, 1.55	Castres 12 9 0 3 75.00 8 Card# 13 9 1 8 73.08 9 Agen 12 8 0 4 68.67
•	7 Sale 12 43 3.68 8 Brine 13 48 3.54 9 Lelosster 11 39 3.45 Wasps 11 38 3.45	8 Saracans 12 19 1.58 9 Perpignan 11 18 1.64 10 Castres 12 21 1.75	10 Brive
ı	POINTS PER MATCH	MOST TRIES CONCEDED  P. Tr. Avge	PWDL %
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•	4 Toulouse 12 396 23.00 5 Securios 11 354 32.18 6 Waspe 11 353 32.09	4 Newport 11 44 4.00 5 Grenchie 11 42 3.84 6 Montpeller 11 40 3.84 7 Ebbw Vale 11 38 3.45	5 Le Rochelle 11 - 3 0 9 27:27 Newport 11 - 3 0 8 27:27 Nice
	7 Lecceles	8 Nice 11 32 291	8 Bourgolo

☐ Figures for players and clubs from top divisions in England, France, Ireland, Scotland, Wales. Fixtures included:

domestic leagues, Heineken Cup, European Conference, Internationals.

#### Morrison appointed in merit-panel scheme

ONLY one English referee, Ed Morrison, has an appointment for the five nations' championship in the new year (David Hands writes). Morrison, who handled the 1995 World Cup final, will take charge when Ireland meet Wales in Dublin on March 21.

Two of England's matches go to southern hemisphere referees in the first five nations' to operate under the merit-based panel, initially established at nine last summer by the International Rugby Football Board, Four newcomers are Jim Fleming, the Scot whose record of internationals is outstripped only by Derek Bevan, David McHugh (Ireland), Didier Mene (France) and André Watson (South Africa).

Watson, who refereed England's match with Australia at Twickenham last month, is the first South African on the panel. "The new approach has received a very positive reaction from the world's leading coaches and players," Tim

Gresson, chairman of the board's referees committee, said. "I am confident this system of appointments will become permanent and, indeed, will be extended to other major international matches, including the 1999 Rugby World Cup qualifying and final tournaments.

Wales will play five matches in South Africa next summer, including an international against the Springboks in Pretoria. Their provincial opponents include Border, who gave the British Isles so testing a game in the mud of East London in May. WALES TOUR: June 12 v Emerging Springboks (venue to be confirmed); 18: v Border (East London); 19: v Notal (Durban); 23: v Gauleng Falcons (Brakpan); 27: v South Africa (Pretoria).

South Africe (Pretorie).

FIVE NATIONS' REFÉREEING APPOINTMENTS: Feb 7: France v England — D
Bevan (Wales); treland v Scotland — A
Wasson (South Africa). Fob 21: England v
Wales — C Hamileo (New Zeeland).
Scotland v France — P O'Brien (New
Zeeland). Mar 7: France v Ireland — J
Planning Scotland; Wales v Scotland — J
Durné (France). Mar 21: treland v Wales —
E Monison (England). Mar 22: Scotland v
England v Ireland — P Marshall (Australia).

E Monison (England). Mar 21: treland v Wales —

### **RUGBY UNION FIXTURES** Kick-off 2.0 unless stated Second division Moseley v Wakefield (3.0) .. Waterloo v Bedford (2.15) ..

Jewson National League Harrogate v London Welsh (2.15) Second division north Nuneaton v Stoutbridge (2.30)

### Second division south Camberley v Taberd TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Pool & Durham v Cumbris (Al Hardapool Rovers, 2.15); Wanvelste's v North: Pool & Durham v Cumshire and Derbyshire (at Rugby, 3.0). Pool B: Lancishire v Laticestershire (at Presion Grasshoppers, 2.15); North Midlands v Chashire (at Worcester, 2.30). Pool C: Northumberland v East Midlands (at Anwick); Statifordshire v Yorkshire (at Burten, 2.30). South: Pool A: Eastam Counties v Comised (at Grange Road, Cambridge, 3.0). Pool B: Heritordshire v Gloucestershire (at Heritord, 2.15). Pool C: Buckinghamshire v Hamperine (at Amersham and Chillern, 2.15): Surey v Kert (at Sutton and Epsorn). Pool D: Oxfordshire v Middleset (at Ifley Road, Oxford, 2.0) Welley I seque Weish League Premier division Cardiff v Swanses (2,30) . Ebbw Vale v Neath ...... ....

Blackwood v Cross Keys Durivant v Aberavon ...... Liandovery v Bonymaen ....... Newbridge v Cardiff Institute . Portypool v Merthy Rumney v Ceerphilly South Wales Police v Maesteg....... Treorchy v Aberillery Tennents Premierablo Edinburgh Academicals v Jed-Forest... Hawick v Boroughmulr...... Mairose v Heriot's FP.....

Second division Third division Gienrothes v Stewart's Melville FP..... Gordonians v Glesgow Southern Hilhead/Jordanhili v Ayr Selkirk v Aberdeen GSFP..... Stewartry v Grangemouth AlB League First division Bellymera v Blackrock College (2:30)... Dolphin v Young Munster (2:30)..... Garryowen v Old Belvedere (2:30)..... Old Crescent v Cork Constitution (2:30) Second division Buccaneers v Sunday's Well (2.30) . Duccareers v Sundays weel (2:30)
Greystones v Instorians (2:30)
Monisstewn v Wanderers (2:30)
Cld Wesley v Malon (2:30)
Skeries v DLSP (2:30) CLUB MATCHES: Chettenham v Birming-ham/Solitual (3.0); Henley v Staines; Manchester v Broughton Park (2.15); Matropolitan Pólice v Stroud (3.0).

TOMORROW Allied Dunbar Premiership First division Newcastle v Gloucester (3.0) .... Seracens v Bath (3.0) ..... TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMP-IONSHIP: South: Pool B: Berishire v Dorset and Witchire (at Abbay, 2.30). Pool D: Somerset v Devon (at Bridgwater, 2.30). AB League First division

Lansdowne v Terenure (2.3(f),

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RACING

### Sheikh Mohammed invited to address all-party committee

SHEIKH MOHAMMED is being asked to the House of Commons to address MPs and peers about the Maktoums threat to leave British racing because of the state of the sport's finances.

A formal invitation from the all-party parliamentary rac-ing and bloodstock committee will be sent out early next week to the Dubai leader and initial soundings suggest he is interested in taking up the challenge.

The group of parliamentarians has 76 members and the intention is to arrange a date when Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary and a keen racing enthusiast, would be free to attend and listen to Sheikh Mohammed

In recent years, the all-party committee has exerted considerable influence behind the scenes with government on issues such as Sunday racing and gaining the VAT concession for owners and breeders.

John Greenway, Conservative MP for Ryedale whose constituency includes Malton. stepped down as chairman of the committee last week to concentrate on his duties as a shadow Home Office minister, with responsibilities including gambling. Lawrence Labour MP for Leigh, and Richard Page, Conservative MP for Hertfordshire, South West have been

appointed joint chairmen. While the Maktoum bomb shell has dominated this week's news, racing carries on



offered the best day's sport so far this season with quality jumping at Cheltenham, jumping Haydock. Doncaster and

After humming and hawing over where Simply Dashing should run today, Tim Easterby has opted to come south for the Tripleprint Gold Cup rather staying in the north for the Tommy Whittle Chase. The exciting six-yearold has never raced at Prestbury Park and connections are anxious, no doubt, to gain valuable experience over the course as part of the horse's preparation for a pos-sible tilt at the Gold Cup in

#### RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Emerald Statement (2.00 Lingfield Park) Next Best: Simply Dashing (2.30 Cheltenham)

the First National Bank Chase at Ascot and earlier at Wetherby, where he beat Senor El Betrutti, the subsequent 15-length Murphy's Gold Cup winner he is hard to oppose.

His Ascot success came on ground softer than ideal and despite an uncharacteristic blunder at the ninth fence. Raised 81b for that win, he still looks well treated and should appreciate today's better surface. Tim Easterby's string remains in cracking form. Fine Thyne finished five

lengths adrift of Simply Dashing at Ascot and reopposes on 6lb better terms but all his best form has been on flat righthanded tracks. Senor El Betrutti is well held on Wetherby form and Destin D'Estruval prefers softer ground. Challenger Du Luc is a bit of a monkey, as he showed when throwing away a winning chance at Newbury last time, but is suited by the track and looks the main

danger to Simply Dashing. Away from the gaze of the television cameras. Emerald Statement could offer some value in the Lambert Fenchurch December Novices' Chase at Lingfield (2.00) against Ottawa, a recent winner in the Worcester mud.

Twice a winner over hurdles last term, he showed his best form when a close third to Agistment and Forest Ivory at Huntingdon. A winning pointer in Ireland, the Gardie Grissell-trained seven-yearold has always appealed as a chaser and he made an encouraging debut at Fontwell behind Joliver.



Edgemoor Prince leads his two rivals on the first circuit before gaining a narrow victory in the novice chase at Cheltenham yesterday

### Sound Appeal causes Triumph adjustment

By CHRIS McGrath

IT MAY or may not be considered appropriate that an accountant should be named Bob Fidler. Either way, he was in the good books of a rather different type of accountant at Cheltenham yesterday — his colours having put punters in the red when Sound Appeal turned over two leading candidates for the Triumph Hurdle. It will have occurred to those who backed The French Furze and Real Estate that the sponsors of the Eagle Pest Control Juvenile Novices' Hurdle could do worse than turn their professional attention to turf

accountants. Sound Appeal had been beaten by Real Estate at Ascot last time, but both were expected to be eclipsed by The French Furze, so impressive at

the previous meeting here. Tony McCoy duly set out to make all again. gave the odds-on favourite a breather at the top of the hill and kicked for home. It was not part of the plan. however, that Andrew Thornton should be cruising in his slipstream on Sound Appeal, who quickened into the lead approaching the last and left The French Furze floundering up the hill. Real Estate eventually claimed second, but the nine-length margin demanded rapid adjustment

to ante-post calculations. Sound Appeal, flagship to the small Lambourn yard of George Foster, is now 16-1 joint-favourite for the Triumph with Coral (from 33-1), along with Khairabar, Rainwatch and Vent D'Aout. The Tote makes Rainwatch favourite at 14-1, both firms having eased The French Furze to 20-1.

more use of her at Ascot and the ground was too sticky for her as well. We've got to come back here in March now, haven't we? She still has to be mounted on the course, so we shall just have to see whether she copes with the bustle of the Festival." Dawn Leader, beaten favourite for

the Festival bumper last season, will again be fancied on his return. judging from a stunning display in the EBF Cheltenham Sponsorship Club National Hurdle Novices' Hurdle. He had so few horses behind him at the top of the hill that the only race he looked like winning was the one starting half an hour later. Yet he suddenly acquired an electric charge from the inside rail, cutting down rival after rival until pouncing at the last to win by four lengths. There

Foster said: "We should have made being no record of Carl Llewellyn ever having ridden Pegasus, one could readily believe him when he said: "I have never sat on a horse that could quicken like that off a slow

Jim Old, the winning trainer, added: "He does pull, so we needed to try to switch him off. He's a real star. I never had him right last season and he's still quite weak, so I wouldn't be surprised if he only ran twice before the Festival — though he wouldn't come here if it were firm, either."

Such brilliant promise illuminated golden Cotswold afternoon, but the blackest night descended when Jenny Pitman's promising Mentmore Towers had to be destroyed after his fall at the second-last in the concluding handicap hurdle, won by the fortunate Gysart.

#### **CHELTENHAM**

12,45 Arctic Kinsman 1.20 Mighty Moss

2.30 TRYING AGAIN (nap) 3.05 Collier Bay

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 CHALLENGER DU LUC.

GOING, GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

**12.45** galway festival handicap chase

(£6,827, 2m 110yd) (4 nunners) Long handicap: See The Faith 9-6. SETTINGS: 5-4 Indian Jockey, 11-8 Arctic Kinsman, 6-1 Nibred, 10-1 Seek The Faith

1995; DANCING PADDY 8-11-10 A Dobber (15-8) K Cunningham-Brown 3 ray

FORM FOCUS

Arctic Kinsman 6i 2nd of 6 to Leotard in handicap chase at Ascot (2m. solt) Indian Jockey 29i last of 7 to Call Equiname in handicap chase at Ascot (2m. good), previously beat Leotard 12th in 8-runner handicap chase at Ascot (2m. good) with Kibrered (14th better oft) 47i last. Seek The Faith 16i 3rd of 6 to Red Branch in handicap chase at Cheptatow (2m 3f 110yd good to soft); previously beat Newtands-General 1/4 in 6-runner handicap chase at Cheftertrain (2m 110yd, good to soft);

ARCTIC KINSMAN badly needed the run at Ascol and can return to his best

1.20 LONESOME GLORY HURDLE (£10,260: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

| 201 | 0321-11 DARAYDAN 31 (C.D.F.G.S) (D.Johnson) M. Pipe 5-11-4 | A.P. MicCoy | 157 | 202 | 1111-4 JUYUSH 14 (G.S) (W. Start) J. Old 5-11-4 | M. A. Fitzgerald | 158 | 203 | 1510-22 | RED. RAJA 22 | F.G.S.) (L. Alu P. Miccoel 4-11-1 | R. Dumwood) | 152 | 204 | 112222 | ABGHTY MUSS 276 (D.G.S) (K. Husby D. Nicholson 6-10-12 | Mr. F. Husby 154 | 205 | /3/112 | RED. BLAZER 240 (BF.D.S) (Mr.s. H. Knight) Mics. H. Knight 6-10-12 | DOUBTFUL | 137 | BETTING 6-4 Mighty Moss. 2-1 Juyuzh 9-4 Daraydan, 14-1 Red. Raja 1996: KARSHI 6-10-12 J Osborne (11-8 ter) Miss H Kneght 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

Baraydan beal Occold 8i in 3-runner hurdle at Newbury (2m 5), good to firm) Junyush 29l 4th of 5 to Sammarino in hurdle grade 2 at Newbury (2m 110yd, soit), previously beal Missinguett 13' in 7-runner hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) Red Rata 4l 2nd of 3 to Whip Hand in hurdle at Antines (2m 5) good to lirm) with Daraydan (6ith worse off) 134l 3nd Red Blazer neck 2nd of 15 to Zander in novice hurdle at Agr (2m 4l, good) MAGHTY MOSS was one of the best nonces last season and will improve

fern, hard. 6 — good. S — solt, good to solt, heavy). Owner in brackets. Traver. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekaeper's speed rating.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

1.55 DOUBLEPRENT MOVICES CHASE

1996: DAPERIAL VINTAGE 6-11-10 N Walterroom (8-11 lav) Miss V Willia

FORM FOCUS Edgemoor Prince won here (3ng 11 110yd good) yesterday, beeling Yahrm hd in 3-numer novice chase Northern Startight & Dealing The Company of the Copper Boy in novice chase at Newbury (2m 41, good to limm). Clever Remark 461 4th of 12 in Lord Rooble in novice chase at Newbury (2m 41 110yd, good). Escarbifique beat Denham Hill 61 in 4-numer novice chase at Worcester (2m 41 110yd, soft).

2.30 TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP (Handicap chase: £37,574: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

BETTING: 11-4 Simply Dacharg, 7-2 Chailenger Du Luc, Tryong Agam, 7-1 Senor El Betruto, 8-1 hads, 12-1 Mayor Bell, 14-1 Fine Thyris, 16-1 others.

Simply Dashing best Fine Tryine (6fth better oil) 51 in 11-numer grade it handloap chase at Ascott (2m 3/ 110)rd, good for soit). Challenger Dit Licc neck 2nd oil 4 to Callegoe Bay in handloap chase at Newbury (2m 4ft, good to soit). Better off) 34 in 10-numer handloap chase grade 3 at Chellenham (2m 4ft 110)rd, good with Destin D'Estruval (13th better off) 38 in 11-numer handloap chase at Newbury (3m 2ft 110)rd, good to soit), previously 11-le 2nd oil 7 to Betmort King in grade it handloap chase at Newbury (3m 2ft 110)rd, good to soit), previously 11-le 2nd oil 7 to Betmort King in grade it handloap chase at Airdree (2m 6ft, good) with Kadi (10th better off) 81 3nd and Senor El Betrutti (4th better off) 311 6th. Major Bett 71 9th of 10 in Desnor's Been on handloap handle at Haydock (2m 6ft, soit), previously 42 2nd of 10 to Sparty Gayle in chase at Chellenham (2m 5ft, good) with Destin D'Estruval (8th better off) 281 5th Kadi 511 7th of 10 to San year with handloap chase at Haydock (3m, good).

ESCARTERIGUE was a top hurdler and jumped soundly at Worcester

1998: ADDINGTON BOY 8-11-10 A Dobbyn (7-4 tay) G Rechards 10 ran

TRYING AGAIN ran well for a long way in the Hennessy and this is his best trip

3.05 BONUSPRINT BULA HURDLE

(1119P- LARGE ACTION 255 (CDLF.G.S.) (B. Semat-Batom) () Stewards 9-11-8

121-111 PROMMELL 22 (CDLF.G.S.) (D. Semat-Batom) () Stewards 9-11-8

1213-2 SHOOTING LIGHT 35 (CD.G.) (J. Brown) P. Marphy 4-11-4

MC0281-277 (D.S.) M. Fitzpainch () Texton-Danes 7-11-0

1111/2- PROMELL 20 (CD.G.S.) (Instead of the Birg C Namey () Production 8-11-0

2110FS2 JUST LITTLE 28 (C.D.F.G.S.) (S.O.Fanell) A P.O.Bren (be) 5-10-13

WC 9-4 Pridwell, 3-1 Large Action, 9-2 Collect Ray 6-1 Bullead D. 506 2110F52 JUST LITTLE 28 (C.D.F.G.S) (S O'Fanell) A P O'Bheri (te) 5-10-13 \_\_\_\_\_\_ C F Seam 170
BETTING: 9-4 Priorell, 3-1 Large Action, 9-2 Collect Bay, 6-1 Reliced, 8-1 Barcey, Shooting Light, 16-1 others
1896, LARGE ACTION B-11-8 L Orberts (6-4 by 0.00-1-1-1)

Large Action pulled up in grade I hundle at Aintime (2m 44, good).
Pridwell best Opsan Hawk 3t in 6-numer grade ii hundle at Ascot
(2m 44, sod) with Bimsey (levels) 10t 4th. Shooking Light 34 2d at 9 to Marcillo in handcap hundle at Cheptime (2m 4t 110)d, good to soft); previously 24ki 3rd of 28 to Commancho Courl in grade I hundle at Cheltenham (2m 110)d, good to soft); previously 24ki 3rd of 3ki 13th. Collier Bay (8h borse off) pulled up and Large Action (8ib worse off) pulled up and 6 to Cockney Lad in grade if Cork (2m, good to soft)

COULTER BAY (by the best borse in the linearin and his stable is notion well

COLLIER BAY is the best horse in the line-up and his stable is going well

3.40 BRISTOL NOVICES HURDLE

(Grade II: £9,555: 3m 110yd) (9 runners) BETTING: 3-1 Easy Feelin, 7-2 Promotice, 5-1 Tidal Force, Let Boys, 8-1 Lord Jan. Old Rousel, 12-1 others

1998: TARRS BRIGGE 5-11-4 J Magee (10-1) C Mann 9 cm FORM FOGUS

A Fainfunse (2m. good to soft). Tidal Force beat Song Of The Sword 1/4 in 8-numer nowice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m. 3f. good). Set Boys beat Old Rouvel (4th better off) 111 in 8-numer nowice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m. 3f. good). Soll). Lord Jim beat Crystal Jewel 21 in 12-numer maden hurdle at Chepstow (2m. 110yd. soll). Easy Feelan beat Good Lord Murphy 31 in 5-numer nowice hurdle at Worcester (2m. 4f. solf). Stormy Session neck 2nd of 10 to Supreme Charm in conditional novice hurdle at Newbory (2m. 5g. solf). Thirty Balow beat Cetic Duke 2541 in novice handicap hurdle at Newbory (2m. 5f. solf).

EASY FEELIN should wan provided he slays this longer distance

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS 20.0 A P MetCoy
16.8 R Dunwoody
15.4 C Swar
15.4 M A Ritzgezeld
55.0 G Bradley
13.6 Only qualitiers O Sherwood D Nicholson C Marin Mics J Priman D Gandolfo M. Pipe 70 197 26 78 20 279 102 215 81 135 109

MONDAY: Newcastle (first race 12.40), Newton Abbot (12.30), War-wick (12.20). TUESDAY: Folkestone (12.30), Hereford (1.10), Musselburgh (12.45).

a race into him.

WEDNESDAY: Bengor (12.40), Cetterick (1.00), Exeter (1.20). THURSDAY: Catterick (12.30), Towcester (12.40), Southwell (AW, 12.50). FRIDAY: Heshem (12.30), Uttoweter (1.10), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.45).

not be many runners in the

E40.000-added event.

SATURDAY: Ascor (BBC, 12.35), Heydock Park (12.25), Lingfield Park (12.15), Uttoweter (12.20). Flat meetings in bold

#### Morceli ruled out of **Tommy Whittle Chase**

looks well enough anyway. I'li MORCELI will miss the Tomprobably have to give him a my Whittle Chase at Haydock racecourse gallop when he's Park this afternoon after over this as I still want to go to coughing at exercise yester-day. Earlier in the week, his Kempton or Wetherby over Christmas with him. trainer, Howard Johnson, had "He'll probably go for the 2½ mile race at Wetherby and announced that the nine-yearold would not run at Haydock, but changed his mind when it seemed likely that there would

he's not far off his racing weight. He won at Ascot off 493 kilos and he weighs 502 kilos at the moment." ☐ The highly regarded Red several times after having a Blazer, trained by Henrietta sharp canter over three or four Knight, will miss the LoneThe lares

WARCHE!

Gold Cup 1

Johnson said: "He coughed furlongs and I dare not risk some Glory Hurdle over 25 him. You could run him and miles at Cheltenham today. "I make things worse. It's a don't think the ground is soft shame because I wanted to get enough for him and it will only get worse as the forecast "All being well I hope it's is for overnight frost and no nothing serious. He certainly rain." she said.



#### HAYDOCK PARK

1.15 Barnageera Boy 1.45 Sesame Seed

12,40 Foundry Lane

2.15 The Grey Monk 2.50 Better Times Ahead 3.25 Riverbank Rose

GOING: SOFT

12.40 OLD HALL COUNTRY CLUB NOVICES HURDLE (£3.102· 2m) (16 runners)

FORM- FOCUS

Foundry Lane beat Gul de Sec 41 in 15-numer novice hurdle at Haydord, (2m. good) with Funkly (6th better off) 46t 9th. French Holly Good to firm). Bellad Ministrel 53t 22nd of 25 to Flonds Peart in NH flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5t 110yd, good to firm). Bellad Ministrel 53t 22nd of 25 to Flonds Peart in NH flat race at Chettenham (2m 110yd, good to firm). Bend Wavy 10t 2nd of 6 to Namoodal in novice hurdle at Amtree (2m 110yd, good to firm). Bend Wavy 10t 2nd of 6 to Namoodal in novice hurdle at Amtree (2m 110yd, good to firm). Bend Wavy 10t 2nd of 6 to Namoodal in novice hurdle at Amtree (2m 110yd, good to soft). Compass Pointer 28t 4th of 10 to Wahub Sands in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). Forever Noble 2t 2nd of 28 to Durann in novice hurdle at Westerby (2m, good to soft). Carol Again 6t 2nd of 15 to Jessica One in mares maden hardle at Westerby (2m, good to soft). Carol Again 6t 2nd of 15 to Jessica One in mares maden hardle at Westerby (2m, good to soft). Carol Again 6t 2nd of 15 to Jessica One in mares maden hardle at Catlenck (2m 31, good).

FIRENCH HOLLY looks a useful prospect and nests the some over Foundry I and

1996: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

PRENCH HOLLY looks a useful prospect and gets the vote over Foundry Lane

COURSE SPECIALISTS **JOCKEYS** TRAINERS 50.0 18.6 15.4 13.5 13.0 12.7 E Callaghan
F Leality
W Marston
R Garriffy
R Farrand
P Moven

#### 1.15 PETROS HANDICAP CHASE

1 /323-31 NATIVE MISSION 14 (CD.G.S) (6 Shouter) J Fiorgeoids 10-11-11 ... R Garmity
2 43P31-3 PLYING INSTRUCTOR 29 (CD.F.G.S) (Lady Lyell) F R Webber 7-11-8 A Thornton
3 /41243- WEE RIVER 252 (D.F.G.S) (5 Genham) G M Moore 8-11-4 ... J Catagham 144
5 6F451-2 POLITICAL TOWER 27 (PR.D.F.G.S) (6 Moore) R Hour 10-11-4 ... B Storry
5 23C31-23 BARMAGEERA BIDY 22 (D.G.S.) (Afric C Wilson) W Jenics 8-16-3 ... T Jenics
154
BETTIMG. 7-4 Flying Instructor, 2-1 Mainre Mession 6-1 Wee River, Political Tower, 7-1 Barraguess Boy

FORM FOCUS

Native Wission best Micrer Oddy 341 in 4-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 11, good to soft); previously 11 3rd of 5 to Cumbrian Challenge in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good). Rlying Instructor 161 3rd of 7 to Call Equinaries in handicap chase at Cheterbarn (2m, good) with Political Tower 139 3rd of 10 to Down. The Fell in grade it handicap chase at America (2m, good) with Political Tower 51 2nd of 4 to Monnae Forte in handicap chase at America (2m, 4f, good) os soft). Barnageera Boy 81 3rd of 9 to Pennybridge in handicap chase at America (2m, 4f, good) FLYING INSTRUCTOR, who has scope to improve, appeals against some exposed rivals

1.45 TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP HURDLE (£6,821. 2m 4l) (8 runners)

0.C1. CTIT 41) (0 IUIIIICES)
4203-25. MASTINGUETT 14 (C.F.C.S.) LI Doggani N Twaston-Davies 6-11-10. J Goldstein (7)
4203-25. MASTINGUETT 14 (C.F.C.S.) LI Doggani N Twaston-Davies 6-11-10. J Goldstein (7)
158.
4203-25. MASTER BEVELLED 14 (6.S.) (Mars & Wallbarria P Evant. 1-10-12. P Novem
158.
4203-11. SESAMA: SEED? (D.G.S.) (I Month's Himitarism 9-10-9. M Footer
159.
42113-11. SERGEL'S LAD 7 (0.G.) (ID Junnary) P Psyclem 3-10-9. M Footer
159.
42113-12. SERGEL'S LAD 7 (0.G.) (D Junnary) P Psyclem 3-10-9. SERGEL'S LAD 7 (0.G.) (D Junnary) Psychology P Sergel'S LAD 7-10-9. SERGEL'S LAD 7-10-9

Long NarkScap: Top Coes 9-13, King Pin 9-12, Ceyrosa 9-11, Thrower 9-10 BETTING 11-4 Sesame Seed, 7-2 Top Cess, 4-1 Nigel's Ltd. 6-1 Mistingpett, 10-1 Master Beveled, Yang Pin Deymate, 12-1 Timpuer

Mistinguett 221 5th of 8 to Go-Informat in grade II hundle as Newbury (3m 110yd, soft), bitaster Beveled 141 5th of 8 to Star Baye in handcap hundle at Newcastle (2m, good) Sesame Seed beat Holdsmickes 6I in 6-runner handcap hundle at Newcastle (2m, good) Sesame Seed beat Holdsmickes 6I in 6-runner handcap hundle at Chepsteric (2m, good) to soft). Top Coes 36I 11th of 16 to Outset in handcap hundle at Anthere (2m 41, good) to firm). Along Pin 744i 5th of 18 to Mahrer in nance handcap hundle at Anthere (2m 41, good). Deymian 13 3th of 9 to Name Of Our Father in handcap hundle at Chepstow (3m, soft). Thrower 201 3th of 5 to Splendid Thyne in handcap hundle at Warrets (2m 31 good to soft). SESAME SEED can continue his writing run in a tricky handicap

2.15 TOMMY WHITTLE CHASE (£26,710: 3m) (5 runners)

BBC1 | RR1,94 | COMMERCUL ARTIST 406 (0.6.5) | Margeri 0.10Can 11-11-2 | T. Jenks U1.12-3 | COULTDN 21 (F.6.5) (M St Ounton) 0.5hermood 10-11-2 | R. Garrity 101667 | MORCEL 392 (C.F.6.5) (Ms.) Corbes 1.10cate 3.0rs.os 9-11-2 | P. Meen 12/11-2 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | R. Garrity 21/12-3 | BETTING: 4-5 The Grey Monk. 2-1 Coulton, 5-1 Rough Obest, 25-1 Commercial Artist.

FORM FOCUS

Coultion 91 3rd of 5 to Coal Dawn in handlesp chase at Aecot (3m 11byd, good to soft), premously 2% 2nd of 6 to Absalom's Lady in grade 8 handlesp chase at Easter (3m 11 11byd, good to soft).

The Grey Monk 111 3rd of 20 to Mantahim in handlesp chase at Faryhouse (3m 51, good) previously beat Tera 11 in 6-turner handlesp chase at Haydook (2m 41, good) Rough Duest 121 2nd of 5 to One Man in grade 1 chase at Kempton (3m, good to film) Stamma double about Coulton make THE GREY MONK a safer online

2.50 ST HELENS COLLEGE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,534 2m 7i 110yd) (9 runners) 

Long handicap: Pressa 9-10 BETTING: 3-1 Splendid Three, 7-2 Campaign, 9-2 Beder Times Alead, 13-2 Five Flags, 8-1 He The Cames Hoodwinker, 12-1 Mr Christie, 14-1 Others

FORM FOCUS

Better Times Ahead neck 2nd of 10 to Son 0f iris in handicap chase at Carliste (3m, good). Splendid Thyrie beat Toby Brown 8f in 5-turner handicap fundle of Warwick (2m 3t, good to soft); previously 4f1 6th of 7 to Spring Sant in handicap handle of Young Sant in handicap handle of Young Sant in handicap handle at Haydock (2m 71 110yd, good) with Hoodwinter (7th better off) 177 4th and HR The Carwas (8th better off) 351 5th. Five Plags 2½1 2nd of 13 to Toby Brown in handicap handle at Market Rasen (2m 51 110yd, good) with Prinsste (same terms) a distance 5th Liten De Farmille 211 5th of 10 to Mister Blate in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good) with Prinsste (same terms) a distance 5th Liten De Farmille 211 5th of 10 to Mister Blate in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good) previously 19 3rd of 11 to Mascagenge in novice chase at Worcester (2m 71 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Beachfield Flyer 6t in 15-turner novice handle at Worcester (3m 110yd, good). Prussta 231 3rd of 7 to Sesame Seed in handicap hardle at Worcester (2m 44, soft). CAMPAIGN can add to his recent course and distance success.

3.25 STANLEY RACING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (\$2,222; 2m) (5 runners)

105-320 (JANARO 14 (8F-6) (I. Milligan) J FiziGerald 5-11-10 ... F Learly 14353-1 RIVERBANK ROSE 15 (G.S.) (Fighwaymen Plus 11 W Ctay 6-10-11 Gay Lewis 119 00/251- TANSED 379 (D.G.S.) (Mass N Taxiof) Al Meagher 6-10-10 E Callagham -1/22236 GORAM 10 (8F-FG) (Nr Exerc) R Dictain 4-10-8 ... M Reightey (5) 342P-32 ALKA INTERMATIONAL 24 (P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 5-10-1 X Azguru 1118 BETTING, 15-à Phystoani-Rose, 3-1 Ouango, 9-2 Alfra Interestional, 5-1 Tarocco, Stram.

Caracti 9 in 8-numer handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m. good), previously ½1 2nd of 10 to Silly Money in handicap hurdle at Newcastle at Newcastle (2m. good), previously ½1 2nd of 10 to Silly Money in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 11 110yd, good), Riverhank Rose beat harque in in nonce hurdle at Blangor (2m 11, good to Smit). Tanseeg beat Stay With Me 1½1 in 10-numer handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 11, good to Smit). previously 25 Sth of 9 to Hernietta Homand in handicap hurdle at Neutringdon (2m 11)yd, good). Skram 3% 60 of 10 to Crown And Cushion in handicap hurdle at Southwell (2m 4t 110yd, good). Skram 3% 60 of 10 to Crown And Cushion in handicap hurdle at Neutringdon (2m 110yd, good). Also intermedional 1½1 2nd of 8 to Sadler's Realm in novice bandicap hurdle at Kempton (2m. good).

REVERBARK ROSE may dette Also Intermetional

 $\square$  Speaker Weatherill's attempt to extend his winning sequence to five was thwarted when he failed by 1'2 lengths against Potter's Bay, trained by David Nicholson and ridden by Robert Thornton, in the Vulrory's Clown Handicap Chase at Doncaster yesterday. Speaker Weatherill's trainer, Owen

RIVERBANK ROSE may deny Alka International, consistent but still a maden

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TRUST SPRINT GOLD CUP 2 miles 5 furlougs, Handicap Chase, Cheltenham 2.30pm, Live on CH4 TV. 5/2 Simply Dashing

4/1 Trying Again 9/2 Challenger Du Luc 11/2 Fine Thyne

13/2 Senor El Betrutti 8/1 Major Bell 16/1 Destin d'Estruval

16/1 Kadi 20/1 Bells Life





Brennan, also trained Vulrory's Crown.

Flow of winners from Yorkshire yard continues uninterrupted despite change of name on licence

حكذامن رلإمل

# Success still reigns in Easterby kingdom

Talking

horse

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 1997

crossroads. Hamlet couldn't make up his mind about his own, and never could work out what he was supposed to do in life, or for that matter, death. Stephen Dedalus spent 900 pages blindly searching for a new one, knowing that the real one would not do. Scorning fiction, or perhaps merely adding to it, Freud constructed an

entire industry on the fundamental tenet that there is something that every male needs to overcome. Fathers and

sons. It is the most ancient source of conflict in the world. Conflict and complexity: an endless tangle of affections and duties and resentments. The thriving son is the symbol of the father's decline; he is also the father's future. It is true, as Dedahus says, that Hamlet is himself the ghost of his own father, for that is true of every son that ever

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Youthful rebellion: rejection of the father. It is a staple of life, a necessary stage on the way to maturity. It is something we see often enough in sport, where parents have sought to manufacture

their children as prodigies. Many of these, at a crucial stage in their training, reject the father, and with him the sport. Others seek their own way of dealing with him, with the sport. The point of the Sebastian Coe story is that Coe was

coached by his father to a gold medal, and then coached by him-self to a second. A measured and considered rejection of the father is seen as a crucial, an essential aspect of the process of maturing. In racing, bloodlines are impor-tant. That is as true for the humans as it is for the horses. Last week I wrote in this space about the former footballer, Mick Quinn, and his courage in going into the business of train-

ing racehorses without a racing

Nature, nurture: with so many horsey people, these things are to be found together. You grow up with horses, you stay with horses. Jockeys are the sons of jockeys, trainers the sons of trainers. There seems to be no alternative. There seems to be no escape: and none wanted, either.

Which brings us to the Easterbys. Tim Easterby is not so much the ghost of his own father, as something alarmingly close to his reincarnation.

Which makes it all doubly rum, as Peter is emphatically in the land of the living.
Yorkshire people. North Yorkshire. Aye. They ve got some gdosses. Aye. Can't go without the oss. Can you? Peter once described

one of his greatest horses, Alverton, as a tough, plain oss. Equal virtues perhaps. Aye. There can be no higher praise than that, surely. The Easterbys inhabit a kind of



Peter Easterby, left, and his son, Tim, who took over the licence from his father three years ago but has managed to follow the same formula for training winners

dynastic kingdom, as founded by Easterby pere, where they train horses, farm the land and repel boarders. If it doesn't have a most and a portcullis, that is because it does not need one. The Easterbys are mosted and portcullised people. You don't go about invad-

heir kingdom is a North Yorkshire version of the vast familial spread in Dallas, but it is Dallas without the scriptwriters. This is the perfect set-up, everything is invariably harmonious, and if it wasn't, they wouldn't tell us and what's more, they wouldn't change it, either. It just is.

I happen to know their secret of training, however, because Tim told me. "Get the best out of your 'oss. Do the best for your owner." Tim thought he was going a bit far, a bit fancy and chatty, in parting with that kind of information. It took a bit of doing. They are a close family, and Tim is as close a person as you could meet.

pleasant, none of these things. True, he doesn't altogether care for journalists, especially not soft southern ones, but he tried to set that natural feeling to one side. That was commendable. I can't really blame him for his defensiveness. I don't blame him for anything. But close, in its multitude of meanings, is what the Easterbys

They are very good at money and very good indeed at horses. These are enviable talents. Peter tells a story about selling four tons of potatoes at a vastly increased price just after Night Nurse had won the Champion Hurdle in 1977. "It was a double-barrelled day."

Peter started with nowt, went to the sales on a pushbike to buy a horse. He is now worth millions, with 2,000 acres of arable land as well as the training yard: Tim. therefore, started with a very great deal. He took over the licence from his father three years ago. And as Eric Morecambe said, you can't see

the join.

The present star of the stable is splendidly named Simply

Dashing, who runs at Cheltenham this afternoon. Simply Dashing is not a g'doss. He's a very g'doss, information that Tim passed to me

quite ungrudgingly.

Simply Dashing is whispered about, but not by the Easterbys, as a potential winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup. "Basically an improving oss. If he improves

#### 'Fathers and sons — the most ancient source of conflict'

enough — you never know." Wild words, as wild as Easterby words wili ever be.

There are horses you get a feeling about, and it is an almost mystical matter. Tim Easterby is not going to talk to you about mystical matters.

"You get a lot of feelings about osses. But nobody tells you if they are going to keep improving." He understands well the Michael Stoute dictum: there are no surprises in racing, but many disappointments.

Tim's job is running a tough plain business, and that requires the assumption of tough plain virtues. This is not a hardship to him. Nature and nurture make it so. Was he pushed in this direction? Encouraged? Was it entirely his own decision?

"I don't know, really," he said. This is a characteristic locution, at least when talking to journalists. It means that the drawbridge is up and the portcullis down. But then, being a courteous as well as a close man, he sends out a messenger from the moated castle of his personality. "I always liked horses. Always been with them. Always

wanted to work with them." But there must have been period of youthful rebellion, a period in which everything that your father said was good was actually bad? No. Simple as that. Not a thought of a question or a hint of it. Horses solve the Oedipus

problem, obviously,

thoughts, new methods into the business?" I don't know, really. Just carried on the same." What difference has it made, then, the son taking over the licence? Taken a bit of pressure off father."

And the fact is that they can train racehorses all right. Peter remains the only man in history to have had 1,000 winners on the Flat and 1,000 winners over jumps. Though wouldn't mind betting that there'll be another, and I have a fair idea of who it will be, as well.

Peter, passing over his kingdom to his heir while still alive, has been able to make the transition that Lear never managed. Perhaps Lear's problem was that he didn't have a son like Tim. Or perhaps he just wasn't closely enough involved in horses. So what are Tim's aims, now the kingdom is in his hands?

"I don't know, really. Make a success of it. Keep the business going." He relented again, sent out another messenger. "I want to train the way I always have done. You have to have very good 'osses." Pause. "That's all." I don't believe

#### The Grey Monk to strengthen Gold Cup hopes

HAYDOCK PARK

1.15: Flying Instructor, a useful novice last term, shaped well enough on his reappearance. and his stable is showing signs of ending its quiet run. But he is not proven in the mud - which factor also discourages interest in Wee River (entitled to need this anyway, having overcome severe health problems). Native Mission required a fine ride to win a similar race at Newbury last time and, while the handicapper has let him get away with just an extra 2lb, he does not always find much. That leaves the dependable Political Tower, who looks well treated after being dropped 3lb for an encouraging comeback at Ayr. He acts. well on the ground.

1.45: Nigel's Lad has never been tried in testing going. which reduces the chances of his wresting the lead from Thrower, A spectacular winner over course and distance. last month. Thrower then went off too fast when taken on for the lead at Warwick. Deymiar did not seem to get home over three miles last time and may prove a danger favourite to gain his revenge if produced late, but the potential class act in the race is King Pin, another promising young horse trained by the in-form

Peter Beaumont. He will come into his own y over fences, but showed enough on soft ground last season to be of income. season to be of interest here. Sesame Seed contributed to another yard's rich streak of form at Chepstow last week. but that was a weakish race and he has gone up 8lb. Top Cees needs more of a test over timber, while the reverse is two flights from home. A true of Master Beveled.

2.15: Rough Quest, the 1996 Martell Grand National winner, loves this ground and can go well fresh, but must prove that he has recovered from the injury that cost him the second half of last season. Coulton will doubtless come on for his reappearance, but lacks the conviction that surrounds The Grey Monk, who could yet make up into a Gold Cup horse and has his favoured soft going. He jumps round improving fast. He represents Haydock especially well

CHRIS MCGRATH



ON TELEVISION CHELTENHAM **CHANNEL 4** 

1.55: Northern Starlight has shown the best chasing form, having won the Rising Stars Novices' Chase at Chepstow before finishing second to Copper Boy (winner since) just four days later. However, Escartefigue was about two stones better over hurdles than the Martin Pipe runner and the way he won on his chasing debut at Worcester 12 days ago suggests he can go to the top over fences.

2.30: see facing page. 3.05: Pridwell has been beaten fair and square in top races by Bimsey, Large Action and Collier Bay over the past two seasons, but is likely to be as he has shown a reformed attitude this term. However, with the absence of a confirmed front-runner, the race tould develop into a tactical battle and Shooting Light makes each-way appeal. He possesses excellent course and distance form, having won the Finesse Hurdle before finish ing third in the Triumph. Pat Murphy's runner put up an

looks perfect. 3.40: Promaice looks an ahove average recruit to hurdling having won four times before finishing second in a grade one event over an madequate two miles at Fairyhouse. He has won three times over 212 miles in testing conditions so this extended three thiles. should be ideal. Easy Feelin impressed when winning both starts at Worcester and is the main danger.

improved performance be-hand Marello at Chepstow after looking the likely winner

return to this stiff two miles

#### CHASE (£7,117: 3m 2f) (7) 4F-2 GREY SMOKE 34 (F.G.S) Mess H Knight 7-11-10 1F06 FATHER SKY 28 (B.CD.F.G) 0 Shennood 8-11-9 12.05 Sounds Like Fun. 12.35 Hazard A Guess, 1.10 Take Cover, 1.40 Jultara, 2.10 New Inn. 2.45 Classy

GOING: GOOD

12.05 BURROUGH HILL LAD NOVICES CHASE (£3,678: 2m 3f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 -212 DANDE NP 22 (F.O.S.) A Carroll 9-11-12 B Powell
2 3-31 MASHVELE STAR 9 (V.F.gs.) R Nathew 6-11-7 W Massacro
3 5-32 FRYUP SATELUTE 21 (D.G.) Mo J Brown 6-11-2 E Calleghan
4 3-50 CURK KRIS 30 (E) M Somesky 5-11-2 A S Smith
5 11-2 SOUNDS LIKE FIN 16 (F.S.) Mo Temphies 9-11-2 D Sallegher
6 POF STAUNCH FRIEND 14 (8.5.) M Temphies 9-11-2 D Sallegher 8-4 Sounds Like Pins, 11-4 State of Franci, 6-1 Machelle Star, 7-1 Dendie Imp. 8-1 Fryep Salastin, 10-4 Our Nets

12.35 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICES HURDLE (£3,015: 2m 110yd) (18)

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2		FLORENTINO 52F No	5 Y Ward 4-10-1	2 LC	anenine (
2	OP	SENERAL HAVEN 21	M Sounds 4-	10-12	E Callenh
4	343	GONE FOR A BURTO HAZARD A GLESS 1	N 14 P Metes 7	-10-12	R 🕮
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	P-04	JOLLY HEART 14 0	Brennan 7-10-12	2	M Brene
ì	33-2	MOON DEVIL 32 M C	amoien 7-10-12	·	. B Pom
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. 12	m	SAGEBRUSH ROLLE	18110	LTIL17	M Rivini
13		SOCIETY MARIC 42			
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7-2 Y	widen,	3-2 Tandam Filish, 5-1 R	oyel Schedar, 6	-1 Opeque, 7-1	Game For
Biario	a, 10-1 S	aciny Marie, 12-1 Ma	non Devil, 14-1 i	shers.	
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1.10 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,834: 2m 4f) (9)

\$23,834: 2m 4f) (9)
1 -1F6 DISALLOWED 27 (CDLF,G) D Microsco 4-11-10
No 0 McPlad (7)
2 3-40 ROYAL MOUNTEROWNE 7 (0.8.5) Man M Rowland 9-11-8
P Middle (3)
R Senset 3 3-44 DANA POINT 7 (5) bits S Smith 5-11-4 P Nichplay (3)
4 1544 CRANDON BOULEVARD 15 (F.G.) bits J Plone 4-11-0 8 hope (3)
5 22US. TESLAYWATCH 34 (F.G.S.) 4 boths 5-10-12 S Taylor (5)
6 1-03 FAVELY SHAPP 43 (F.G.) 4 boths 5-10-12 S Taylor (5)
7 454 JACKSCH PARK 89 (C.G.) 1 boths 4-10-11 D J Nichtet
7 454 JACKSCH PARK 89 (C.G.) 1 boths 6-10-3 E Cathophan
8 5-12 BEACON FLISHT 34 (BF.S) 8 De 1 both 6-10-8 B Powell
9 29-0 TANE COVER 22 M Tomphise 6-10-0 D Cathophan
3-1 Disablesed, 4-1 Fairly Shapp, 9-2 Dana Patot, 8-1 Crandon Soutavert, 7-1
Beacon Flight, 8-1 Teelpy Inhibit, 10-1 Lacksce Park, 14-1 offices.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: There are no horses blinkered for the first time today.

1.40 NEVILLE CRUMP MEMORIAL HANDICAP

3 1-43 ENWARD DEU 64 (F.S.S) IN Secrete 9-17-1 ... J IT AUSTRAMS
4 1-41 LELTARIA 21 (F.G.S.) I Williams 5-10-13
5 -112 LORDO OF THE WISS 25 (BF.F.S.) J J O'Nedf 8-10-12 R Guest
5 3-17 DOMANGE DE PRON 35 (F.G.) Mrs 1. Taylor 6-10-6 ... R Belliumy
7 1912 SYMBOL OF SUDCESS 7 (V.BF.F.S.) D Williams 6-10-0 Mr S Durack (S)

3-1 Symbol Ol Success, 7-2 Gey Sanole, 4-1 Lord Ol The West, 6-1 Pather Sty. 7-1 Julius, 8-1 Sanord Dies, 10-1 Domaine de Pros.

2.10 SEA PIGEON HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,702: 2m 110yd) (4)

15-8 Star Rage, 9-4 Karstu, 3-1 New You, 9-2 Ramphiles.

2.45 FORGIVENFORGET MAIDEN CHASE (£3,496: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 SPACE, EV BLADE R Matthew 7-11-7 R Bellamy
2 4597 BLLY BRIGHTON 1118 B Retinest 7-13-7 A S Smith.
3 52- CLASSY LAD 266 (BF) N Headerson 7-11-7 J R Kennengh
4 53-0 DESERT BRAVE 15 Mes S Smith 7-11-7 R Guest
5 00-5 ELEMENT OF RISK 14 W Commingham 7-11-7 N Smith
6 6-24 ELORAL LESED 12 (BF) J Hourd Johnson 7-11-7 J F Tilley
7 06- STARDANTE 206 R Lee 5-11-7 B Powell B-11 Classy Ltd, 4-1 Deseri Brave. Global Legend. 16-1 Standards, 25-1 others.

3.20 DONCASTER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,035: 2m 110yd) (18) 1 PRESIDENTREE 32 (D.S) A Carell 4-11-11 Mr 0 McPhall (7) 1- OLEENSWAY 212 (D.S) J. Fizgeald 5-11-11 ... J. Calleghan 130- MEASAHB OFESTEEM 276 (D.S) S 60lings 6-11-6 Mr 5 Durack (5) 3 130- MEANSAHS OFESTERN 278 (CD.6) S Gollogs 6-11-6

4 37 AUTHARN BLINDER 20 A Carrolt 5-11-4 B Powell
5 4 CASHAL CALL 24 T Existing 6-11-4 B Recent (5)
6 FLECKEF-ORD 3 Hencon 5-11-4 JR Keventoin
7 0-12 LUCKY TOLICH 30 W blair 4-11-4 M Richards
9 MESSED CALL 50 M Temptices 5-11-4 D Galeghar
10 SPACKERS J Hencon 4-11-4 B H Demote (7)
11 SWESTE GENTLY Mins 5 Senth 5-11-4 R Guest
12 TOMA-MOSS J O'Stee 5-11-4 Michael Breman (5)
13 01/ TREP YOUR TRIGGER 651P (5) C Bent 6-11-4 R Supplie
14 HOMS KOME CLASSER F. Rathy 4-10-13 A S Grath
15 JAMMAD J Waltempth 5-10-13 W Davis
16 (COMBIS GOOD OR Wood/Busch 6-11-13 W Davis
17 MAZECOM J Heiberton 5-10-19 T Sidday (7)
18 3-05 CRASSER Rathy 4-10-13 M Bernton
1-2 Owerstage, 5-1 Messed Call, 6-1 Supplied B-1 Cassal Call, Lady Torch, 5-2 Outensway, 5-1 Messed Call, 6-1 Shagreet, 8-1 Castal Call, Ludy Torch, 10-1 Mentahib Olisseem, Grage Imp, 12-1 others.

**COURSE SPECIALISTS** TRANSPS: 1 Easterby, 6 womers from 18 rozners, 33.3%; N Henderson, 5 from 17, 29.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 16 from 75, 21.3%; J D'Shee, 3 from 15, 20.0%; O Sherwood, 9 from 47, 19.1% JOCKEYS: P Carbony, 8 winners from 27 roles, 28.6%; J Kacmagh, 4 from 21, 18.0%; G Los, 3 from 16, 18.6%; W Morston, 4 from 22, 18.2%; E Calleghan, 3 from 21, 14.3%; M Breanan, 3 from 27, 11.1%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good 12.10 (2m 1f hole) 1, Sound Appeal (A Thomton, 12-1); 2, Real Estate (S-1); 3, The French Fuzzo (4-5 tay); 13 ran, 11), 21, 47 Foster, Tota: £12.60; £3.60, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £19.60, This: £4.10, CSF: £44.90.

24.20. CSF: £10.63.
2.30 (2m 11 hdie), 1, Thetam (R Dursepody, 9-4 jelse); 2, Barra Boy (7-1); 3, Mister Rm (7-1). Doctoor 9-4 jelse), 7 sm. 34, 44 Lady Herrise. Tote: £2.40; £1.90, £2.60. OF: £12.80. CSF: £17,00.
3.05 (2m 5 ch) 1, Yeoman Warrior (A Garrity, 7-1); 2, Papiack Lad (14-1); 3, Pongo Warring (9-4 jelse), With Impunity 9-4 jelse 6 sm. 30, 111 R Rose. Tote: £3.30; £3.00, £2.50. DF: £41.60. CSF: £84.63.
3.40 (3m 110.6d hdie) 1, Gurset 14 P.

22.00, 23.60, 23.00. DF: \$47.30. Tric: \$91.30. CSF: £50.20. Tricast: £540.08.
Jackport: not worn (pool of £7,682.01 carried forward to Chellesham Inday).
Placeport: £420.60. Quadport: £141.90. Doncaster

French Fuzze (4-5 tat), 13 ran. 11, 18. A Foster. Tote: £21.00. E3.50. £1.30. £1.10. DF. £19.00. Tric: £4.10. CSF. £44.90. 12.45 (3m if 110yd ch) 1, Edgernoor Prince (F Durmvoody; 13-6); 2, Yaltmi (10-11 tay); 3, Robsand (5-1), 3 ran. Hd, dist. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.10. DF. £1.50. CSF. £3.22. 1.20 (2m if lode) 1, Dewn Leader (C Llewelyn, 11-4; Richard Evens's nap); 2, Goodins George (8-1); 3, Pescy Grow (33-1). Mountain Stom 5-2 tay: 16 ran. 4, rk. J Cld. Tote: £3.90. £1.70. £2.30, £4.80. DF. £19.50. E1.70. £2.30, £4.80. DF. £19.50. E1.70. £2.30, £4.80. DF. £19.50. E1.70. E2.30. £1.70. DF. £1.50. CSF. £1.50. CSF. £1.50. CSF. £1.50. CSF. £1.50. CSF. £1.50. DF. £2.80. DF. £1.80. 
ring fast. He represents 284.63. Sec. (3m 110 of index) 1, Gypert (4 P D Nicholson, Total 23.50; 21.50, 23.40. CSI 110 of 10.50; 2 furnishing Pase (18-1); 3. Signification Total 23.50; 21.50, 23.40. CSI 11.53. Signification Total 23.50; 21.50, 23.40. CSI 252.82

RICHARD EVANS 18.0 12 ran 7, 151 M Pipe Total 24.10. Placepot 2207.20. Quadpot 548.80. Quadpot 254.00.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard
12.40 (1m 5t) 1. Kailey Senor (F Norton, B-1), 2. Reinasb (7-1); 3. Harlequin Walk (7-1). Vennan 13-8 fav. 11 ran. 31, 291. R. Amsstrong, Tole: 512.30, 52.30, 53.50, 51.50, DF: £56.50, Tino: £45.80, CSF. £59. 10. Tricest: £381.80.
1.10 [55] 1. Chipsead Bay (C Scally, 11-10 fast); 2. Just Dissident [8-2; 3. Opening Range (7-2), 8 ran. 3, 341 K Norty, Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.40, £1.50, DF: £4.70, CSF: £6.58, Tricest: £14.13, 145.864, 144.146, Margin Old Arters. 1.45 (6) 1, Muja's Magic (N Adams, 10-1); 2, Batchworth Belle (4-1); 3, Private Seai (3-1 Julay), Blue Shatow 3-1 Julay, 7 can, Hd, M, K Novy, Tota: £5.90, £2.70, £2.80, DF: £11.60, CSF, £48.12 2.20 (7) 1, Bali Dance (N Adams, 12-1); 2. Apopulo (4-1); 3, Lady Laphrosid (12-1); Bow Balls 2-1 tav. 10 ran. 2%; 3-2 Booti. Tots: £12.50; 52.00, 52.00, 52.4 (0. DF: £15.80, Ync: £138.10, CSF: £58.81

2.55 (Im 2) 1, Polished Steel (P Dos. 9-2); 2, Avesome Power (11-1); 3, Billaddie (11-2), Mukhiles 11-4 tav. 8 ran. NR: Twin Tinte 51,251, Lady Hemes. Tota: 24.40; 52.10, 52.10, 52.50. DF: \$25.00. Trio: \$55.30, CSF. £48.22. 3.30 (1m) 1, Benzhel (A Clark, 10-1); 2, Twin Creeks (12-1); 3, Whee Plains (11-8 fee), 12 can 11. Xi G L Moore, Torr: £13.30; £3.40, £2.50, £1.40, £F. £36.30. Thio: £44.40. CSF: £119.40. Tricast £252.82 Placenot: £109.10

LINGEIELD PARK THUNDERER

Marvel 2,00 Fidding The Feds: 2.35 Miss Diskin. 3.10 Fire Ball. 3.40 Bowcliffe Court.

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES

12.30 TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,339: 2m 110yd) (5 numers) 8-4 Riparas, 5-2 Cool Genner, 4-1 Harbet House, 7-1 Danegold, 8-1 Tuscany Highiany

1.00 PEAK HANDICAP CHASE (£4,333: 2m 5f) (4) 131- CARBOO GOLD 216 (ELDF,S) K Basey B-11-10 N Williamson 11-2 TEMEN 15 (6F.D.E.S) 1 Footer B-11-8 S Wyone 2296 McWills SURMA 21 (0.9) E Habbert B-11-4 P Carbony FP-1 SOPHE MAY 18 (E.C.D.F.S) B Carls 6-10-0 D Mexical 7-4 Carabox Gold, 9-4 Tentein, 7-2 Sophie Mey, 4-1 Monts Soham.

1.30 TJH GROUP SUMMIT JUNIOR HURDLE (Grade II: 3-Y-0: £9,176: 2m 110yd) (5) 1 14 BLODY MASSIC 28 (D.S.) O Sharwood 11-2 ... P Carberry
2 041 IONESSOONN TPOC 10 S) R Smith 10-12 ... N Williamson
3 2312 PRAFREL 15 J. London 10-12 ... N Williamson
4 40 ZAFAREL 15 J. London 10-12 ... P Hide
5 1112 AMRTEE 42 (BF,D.F,G) M Pipe 10-7 ... C Moude 1-1 Buddy Marvel, 11-10 Amilge, 20-1 Kingsdown Trix, Plakes Minstel, 33-1 Zelaretti,

**COURSE SPECIALISTS** TRADIERS: 6 L Moore, 9 from 32, 28.1%; P Nicholfs, 7 from 27, 25.9%; N T-Davies, 7 from 30, 23.3%, R Buckler, 3 from 14, 21.4%. JOCKEYS: D Bridgester, 17 Irom 44, 25.0%; P Hide, 6 Irom 28, 21.4%, D Lepty, 3 Irom 15, 20.0%; N Williamson, 6 Irom 41, 19.5%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Laa Jadeed. 7.30 Gralmano. 8.00 Takhiid. 8.30 Cherokee Ffight. 9.00 Ellamine. 9.30 Skelton

7.00 MEASURE FOR MEASURE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,659: 1m 100yd) (13 runners) 

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

Going: Standard

6-4 Stage Whisper, A-Y Haalibyants Shek, Las Jadeed, 8-1 Singsor, 12-1 others 7.30 CHIMA STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,697: 7() (5) 

4-5 Classy Cleo, 3-1 One Stager, 6-1 Grainmand, 10-1 Arbeing, 14-1 Impublishe Decision 8.00 DIXON HANDICAP (£2,473: 6f) (13) 7-2 Malin, 5-1 Extens Prophets, 6-1 Italian Symphony, 7-1 Ramsey Hope, 10-1 Tainid, Ulina Beel, 80th Arisboom, 12-1 others.

2.00 LAMBERT FENCHURCH DECEMBER NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £12,140: 3m) (5) 1 12/1 OTTOWA 18 (G.S) P Nichoris 7-11-7 \_\_\_\_ 2 0-1P THE PROMS 29 (V.D.G.S) N Twiston-Day

4 S30P JOKER JACK 4 (F.S.) R Dean 12-11-0 \_\_\_\_\_ T Descombe 5 231- PODLING THE FACTS 240 (D) II Headeson 6-18-9 N Williamson 7-4 Ridding The Facts, 2-1 Excepted Scatteragot, 9-4 Ottown, 10-1 The Proces, 66-1 John Jack

2.35 THE GROUP LINGFELD PARK LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (£4,687: 3m) (5)

5-2 Figurance, 11-4 Kamiliaze, 3-1 Sail By The Stars, 7-2 Sector Stephenia, 10-1 Mess Distan.

3.10 TESTERS FREELANDER NOVICES HURDLE (£2,668: 2m 3f 110yd) (14)

3.40 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,821: 2m 3f 110yd) (5) 1 11-5 TICACHTY'S GFT 15 (CDLF) G L Moore 7-11-12 . M Balchalor (7)
2 22-2 MORY COASTER 17 6 De Roan 5-10-19 ... G Marche
3 6 BOWCLIFFE COURT 6 IS ] Alexand 5-10-10 ... M Williamson 4 25-2 MANDY LASS 23 (D.F.S.) 2 South 8-10-10 ... Mr J Tizzard (5)
5 324- JOWE (MR 201 (BFLFS) R Bankto 5-10-5 ... Sophin Milliams (5) 15-8 feory Coaster, 100-30 Handy Lass, 11-2 Tickerty's Gift, 6-1 others.

8.30 BENTLEY JENNISON CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS HANDICAP (£2,788: 1m 1179yd) (10)

4-5 Democrat, 100-50 Night Marage, 11-2 Cherokse Flight, 10-1 others 9.00 AS YOU LIKE IT SELLING STAKES (£1,738: 1m 6f 166yd) (9)

4-5 Anjos: 9-2 My Hero, 7-1 Le Squed Gousier, Shightly Other, 14-1 others.

9.30 COMEDY OF ERRORS HANDICAP (£1,877: 1m 4l) (12) 1 2100 ORQUANCO 7 (D.F) E Alcton 4-9-13 . . Metanic Worden (7) 11 2 4540 SKB, TON SOVERBEN 73 (CD.F) R Halliesheat 3-9-12

9-2 Monoming, 6-1 Mercury, 7-1 Wildline, Failed To Hit, Annul Blac, 8-1 Zeronal, Mysterium, 10-1 oskers

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W. Levic., 8 elemens from 26 elements, 30,8%; M. Prescott. 26 from 112, 28,2%; M. Johnston, 53 from 226, 22,6%; Land Hantingdon, 20 from 91, 22,0%; M. Mezote, 7 from 32, 21,9%. JOCKEYS: M Rimmer. 6 winners from 36 idees, 16.7%, 6 Duffield, 28 from 186, 15.1%; Dano O'Neili, 8 kom 61, 13.1%; T Spraite, 17 kom 136, 12.5%; A Clark, 22 kom 200, 11.0%

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### The fun of the cup and £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a

team and win the FA Cup league?

for grabs for the winner of the brandnew FA Cup league. a league within the ITF. Entrants to ITF will auto-

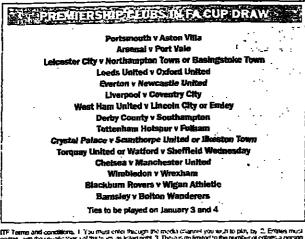
matically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3. English Premiership players will begin the knockout and Janu-ary 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember. the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated. Any team in the ITF prior to 12 noon today will automatically receive 20 extra transfers in addition to their

£10,000 prize is up current allocation. After 12 noon, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and relephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. Entrants must be 18 years or over.

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if approprate. in the mini leagues - students or wom-

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bug and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.



SIND OF OUR COLUMN HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE 0891 405 011 Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11

players and a manager. You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs: 2 central

defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager. You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the

Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.

You may enter as many teams as you wish.

CAN SHOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10sterling and may only be made by post.

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Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotiline, using a Touch tone (DTMF) telephone (most push button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's or students) if appropriate. If so, do so as directed on the telephone. You must speak the name of your team the more than 16 characters), your name, address with postnade and your deptime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification plainter (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team sours. (A new team will score points on future gartess in the III and mini league.) Calls last about eight minutes and cost 50p per minute (calls made from a pay phone cost approximately double).

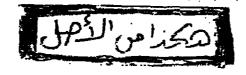
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NICE

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	HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM									
THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS										
TEAM NAME (Up to 16 chara	First Name									
Goalkeeper										
Full back	Sumame									
Full back	Address									
Central defender										
Central defender										
Midfielder	Postcode Daytime Tel									
Midfielder										
Midfielder	Cheque / PO No.									
Midfielder	This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.									
Striker	Women's Student League									
Striker	Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league									
Manager	and the Students' league.									
Which age group are you? 18-24 25-34 35-44 4	15-54 55-64 65+ The Sunday Times? Less than once a month 1-2 times a month 3-4 times a month									
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Code	Name	Team	Price Em	23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	40601 40602	A Thompson S Sellers	Bolton Wanderers Bolton Wanderers	2.50 2.00	50803 53003	P Beerdsley D Holdsmorth	Bolton Wanderers Bolton Wanderers	2.00 3.00 4.00 4.50 4.50
COUC	Name		PTIÇO ASI	200300		enterior de la companya de la companya de la companya de la companya de la companya de la companya de la compa		40603	L Lisabones	Botton Wanderers	2.00	51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.0
10101	I I alabaa	AL-don-		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	<b>PATTICE</b> S	DEFENDERS		40604 40605	M Johansen J Pollock	Solton Wanderers Bolton Wanderers	200 200	50703	T Johnson	Celtic Celtic Celtic Celtic	2.5
10101 10201	J Leighton D Seamen	Aberdeen Arsenal	2.00 5.00					40701	A Thosa	Ceitic	4.50	50704 50705	S Donnelly H Larsson	Cettic	4.5
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	Code _	Name	TeamF	Hee £mi	40702	P O'Donnell	Cettic Cettic Cettic Cettic Cettic	3.00	50601	G Zola	Chelses	9.30 7.00
10401 10501	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00					42503 40704	A Bünker C Burley	Celtic	3.00 3.00	50802	G Zola M Hughes D Dublin	Chelsee.	7.00 5.00 5.00
10501	T Flowers K Branagan	Blackburn Rovers Bolton Wanderers	3.50 1.50	30101	B O'Nell	Aberdeen	2.00 3.00	40705	P Lambert	Cetto	· 3.00	50901 50902	D Dublin D Huckerby	Coventry City	5.0
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	30201 30202	T Adams M Keown	Arsenal Arsenal	3.00 3.00	40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50 4.00	50903	N Whelen	Coveriny City Coveriny City	25
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	200	40802 40803	R DI Matteo	Chelsea Chelsea	4.00 1.50	51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	2.00 1.50
10801 10901	E De Goey	Chelsea Coveniny City	3.00 1,50	30203 30204 30301	S Bould	Arsenal	2.00 3.00	40804	E Newton G Povet	Cheisea	3.00	51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace Crystal Palace	2.00
11001	S Ogrizovic C Nash K Miller	Crystal Palace	0.25	30301 30302	G Southgate U Ehlogu	Aston Vija	3.00 3.00	40901	G Poyet G McAllister	Coventry City	250	51004 51101	M Padovano D Sturidos	Crystal Palace	2.50
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	0.25 2.00	30401	A De Zeeuw	Aston Villa Barnsley	1.00	40902	T Softwedt	Coventry City	1.50	\$1103	F Balano	Derby County Derby County	4.00 4.50
11101 11201	M Poom S Dykstra	Derby County Dundee United	1.50	20.400	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	40909 40904	J Selako P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50 1.50	51104	D Burton.	Derby County	4.50 1.50
11301	i Westwater	Duntemilne	2.00 1.00	30403 30502 30504 30505 30505 30602 30602 30603 30604	M Appleby	Barnsley Blackbum Rovers	9.50 3.00	41002	S Rodger D Pilicher	Coventry City Crystal Palace	1.00	51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	30504	C Hendry S Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	250	41003	D Plicher	Crystal Palace Crystal Palace	0.25 1.50	\$1201 \$1202	A McLaren K Olofsson	Dundee United	3.00
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50 1 50	30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	41004 41005	P Warisurst A Lombardo	Crystal Palace Crystal Palace	1.50	51301	G Britton	Dundee United Duntermline	4.00
11601 11602	C Reid O Gottakaiksson	Hibernian Hibernian	7 50 1.50	30601	G Taggart G Berguson C Fairclough	Bolton Wandsrers Bolton Wanderers	1.50	41101	A Assenovic	Derby County	3.00 2.50 3.50	\$1401	D Ferguson	Everton	2.00 4.00
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmamock	100	30603	C Fairclouch	Botton Wanderers	1.00 1.00 1.50	41102	S Erapio	Derby County	3.50	51402	N Bamby	Everton	3.00 2.50
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3 50	30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	41103 47104	D Powell C Dailly	Derby County	1.50 1.50	\$1404 \$1501	D Cademarteri J Robertson	Everton	2.50
11901 12001	K Koller D James	Leicester City Liverpool	3,00 3,50	30701 30702	E Annoni M Nacksy	Celtic	1.50 3.00	41105	2 Van Der I sen	Derby County Derby County	1.00	51502	J Hamilton	Hearts Hearts	3.50 . 3.00
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	30703 30704	A Stubbe	Celtic Celtic Celtic Celtic Chelses	3.00	41106	J Hund	Derby County	1.00	51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00
12201	S Howle	Motherwell	1.00	30704	M Rieper F Leboeuf	Celtic	3.00	41201 41301	R Winters A Smith	Dundes United	3.50	51701 51702	P Wright A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	3.00 5.00
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**LAW** 45

## Ombudsman's power no more than court's

Edge and Others v Pensions attracted adverse tazation con-determine disputes which involved Ombudsman and Another sequences. The trustees therefore the rights of others or to directly Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-

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Dudgment December 5 The Pension Ombudsman had no power to direct steps to be taken that a court of law could not. He could not therefore direct a deed to be set aside as against parties who had not been parties to his investigation or been given an opportunity to be heard.

Where trustees had a discretionary power to choose be-tween different beneficiaries it was meaningless to speak of a duty to

act impartially.

Where pension scheme rules required some of the trustees to be employees and in the proper exercise of their discretion the trustees increased benefits to employees, there was no need for the individuals, who were; both trustees and employees to account-for the benefits so received. Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chan-

cellor, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Dirision allowing the appeal of Thomas Edge and 17 others, as trustees of the Industrial Training Boards pensions funds, against the decision of the Pensions Ombuds. man that amendments made by a deed dated Angust 17, 1993 to the scheme rules of the persion fund were invalid. The respondents were the Persions Ombudsman and Eric Christian George Nicholson who represented the

Mr David Unwin, QC and Mr. James Clifford for the trustees: Ms. Tess Gill for the ombudsman; Nr Nicholson did not appear and was;

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR: said that there was a substantial? liament could not have intended to surplus in the pension funds which give the ombudsman power to

plus by making distursements which required amendments to the scheme rules.

The trustees amendments to the rules reduced the contributions to be paid by members and provided an additional pension benefit for members in service at April 1, 1994. A number of pensioners who

were no longer liable to pay contributions and so did not benefit from the reduction in contributions and who, being no longer in service, did not qualify for the additional pension benefit, complete that the amendments were plained that the amendments were Part X of the Pensions Act 1993

dealt with the powers and jurisdic-tion of the Pension Ombudsman in the investigation of complaints of maladministration and disputes of fact and law in the manage drawn personal in his investiga-

The Pension Ombudsman held that the trustees had acted in breach of trust. None of the employers nor any of the members was a party to the proceedings before the Pensions Ombudsman and had been given no opportunity to comment pursuant to section 149(1)(b) of the 1993 Act although the trustees' comments had been fully heard.

The problem with the provisions of Part X of the 1993 Act taken as a whole was that they did not cater at all for a case in which a complaint was made against, say, trustees, but in which the remedial steps to be taken if the complaint was well founded would prejudice the position of some third party or parties. OR His Lordship held that Par-tial? liament could not have intended to

wished to eliminate excessive sur-plus by making disbursements affected third parties not before

it followed that Parliament could not have intended him to entertain complaints which could only be remedied by such steps or determine disputes in circum-stances in which his determination could not be effective.

rie considered the provisions of Part X and referred to Hillsdown Holdings ple v Persions Ombudsman ([1997] ] All ER 862, Westminster City Council v Haywood ([1996] 3 WLR 563) and Wild v Pensions Ombudsman (The Times April 17, 1996) and said that in a case in which the maladministration completined of consistent of the consistent of t tion complained of consisted of an alleged breach of trust, the Pensions Ombudsman had no power to direct remedial steps to be taken that were not steps that a court of law could properly have directed to

The steps directed to be taken by the trustees in the present case were based on the premise that the deed of amendment was being set aside. But the beneficiaries under the deed, namely, the employee members, were not parties to the proceedings. The deed could not be set aside as against them.

The setting aside of the deed would increase the amount of the contributions to be paid by the employers. The employers were given no opportunity to make representations. The ombodsman did not treat them as parties.

In those circumstances, and having regard to the respective positions of the employee members and the employers, a court could not have ordered the deed to be set aside. A court could not have directed the trustees to take steps that could only be justified on the footing that the deed had been set aside. Nor, in his Lordship's judgment, could the Pensions Ombudsman do so.

Second: the ombudsman found that the trustees in reaching their decision "breached their duty of impartiality... did not act in the best interests of all the beneficiaries and ... exercised their power for an improper purpose".

But in relation to a discretionary power to choose which benefi-ciaries, or which classes of benefitrust benefits, it was meaningless to speak of a duty on the trustees to

Trustees, when exercising a discretionary power to choose, should not of course take into account irrelevant, irrational or improper factors. But provided they avoided doing so, they were entitled to choose and to prefer some beneficiaries over others.

It was the trustees' discretion that was to be exercised. Except in been surrendered to the court it

The judge might disagree with the manner in which trustees had exercised their discretion but, unless they could be seen to have taken into account irrelevant, improper or irrational factors, or unless their decision could be said to be one that no reasonable body of trustees properly directing themselves could have reached, the judge could not interfere. In particular he could not interfere simply on the ground that the partiality shown to the preferred beneficiaries was in his opinion

The trustees were the judges of whether or not their exercise of the

beneficiaries. Their exercise of the discretionary power could not be set aside simply because a judge, whether the Pensions Ombuds man or any other species of judge, thought it was not fair.

Third, the Pensions Ombudsman held that the trustees who were members in service were accountable for any benefit to which they had already or might in the future become entitled under the deed of amendment so that they would not receive any profit from their position as trustees.

That made no sense when applied to the instant pension scheme and the facts of the case and did not represent the law. The pension scheme rules required there to be member trustees who were current employees of an employer participating in the

The notion that, when the discretionary power of amendment was exercised so as to increase an existing benefit or add a new benefit, the member trustees had to be excluded from benefit was, in his Lordship's opinion, quite sim-

The rules themselves contemplated that, as trustees, the em-ployee members would from time to time have to exercise discretions in which their duty and interest might conflict.

In those circumstances there was no rule of equity that required them to account for the benefits that an entirely proper exercise of discretionary powers might pro-duce for them. The member trustees were not accountable for benefits accruing to them, whether in respect of reduced contributions or the additional service benefit, as a result of their decision taken on April 30, 1993

Solicitors: Richards Butler; Mr John Yolland, Putney.

nuerest of £800. In April 1991, at the expiry of the fixed term of Mr Taylor's investment, Mr Barrett represented to him that the amount due to him. together with interest was £24,000.

# on reinvestment

Regina v Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd, Ex parte Taylor

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Potter and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment December 4] Although the statutory scheme for compensating investors was not retrospective, a post-scheme agreement to reinvest moneys originally invested before it came into force was compensatable, even though the original sums had been mis-

appropriated before the inception of the scheme. The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Joseph Taylor, from the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Tucker) (The Times December 27, 1996) which had dismissed his application for judicial review in respect of a decision by the Investors Compensation Scheme Lad that he was not eligible for compensation in respect of his claims for the loss of an investment made through Beechcroft In-surance Brokers, the trading name of a Mr Barrett, who was authorised to carry on investment

Mr Neil Kitchener for Mr Taylor: Mr Jonathan R. McManus for

business by the Financial Inter-mediaries, Managers and Brokers

LORD JUSTICE POTTER, giv-ing the judgment of the court, said that the money was given to Mr Barrett in March 1986. An ICS report later concluded that Mr Taylor's funds were, in common investors paid into a bank account

appropriated by Mr Barrett. On April 22, 1988 Beechcroft was authorised to conduct investment business by Fimbra and on August 28, 1988 the scheme took effect. In March 1991 Mr Taylor withdrew

He withdrew £2,000 interest and was then persuaded to reinvest the mentation received in 1986 in return for a certificate, dated April 20. 1991, which said: This confirms your investment of £22,000 on April 1, 1991."

Compensation payable

The Financial Services empensation of Investors) Rules 1990, made pursuant to section 54 of the Financial Services Act 1986, as amended by the 1991 Rules. provided: "Nothing in any rules made under section 54 of the Act is to be interpreted (if it otherwise would be) as authorising the payment of compensation on a claim except to the extent that the claim is a claim in respect of any civil liability incurred on or after comber 18, 1986 in connection rson who, at the time compensation is to be paid, is or has been an

authorised person." In giving the leading judgment of the Divisional Court, Lord Justice Staughton referred to the grounds on which it was congrounds on which it was con-tended Mr Taylor could claim agains: Mr Barrent in respect of the 1991 reignesses.

He said: "Each of those claims depends to a greater or lesser extent on estoppel, as to the existence of the £22,000." He then referred to the decision

in Securities and Investment Board v Fimbra (1992) Ch 268) and to the fact that the revised rule 102.3 was framed as an overriding provision to reflect the provision the statute conferred no power to make rules in respect of liability incurred before the comment ment date of the First Schedule." He later said: "It is true that Mr Taylor did not discover the loss until November 1992. I suppose

because it was deliberately concealed from him. But the liability was incurred when Mr Barrett made off with the money. What happened thereafter was fiction." Their Lordships noted that Lord Justice Staughton considered that the warrant for focusing, not upon what seemed to them to be the clear wording of the statutory lying purpose of the Act, was the scheme requiring honest traders to make good the losses caused by

Private life outwith scope

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their Lordships considered that even if it was right to regard the scheme set up and funded under the statutory power in section 54 as a "mutual scheme" in any conventional sense, that was in-sufficient reason to place a limitation upon what seemed to of the Act, namely to compensate members of the public in respect of claims against delaulting authorised persons for losses effected by such persons after the

compare R V Investors Compensa-tion Scheme Ltd, Ex parte Weyell (1994) QB 749, 767B). Paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of section 54(2) of the 1986 Act provided in unqualified terms for rules to establish a fund out of paid; and for the specification of the terms and conditions on which and the extent to which compensa-

compare R v Investors Compensa-

Those rules appeared to be couched in terms suitable to be applied to the payment of claims the type relied on by Mr Taylor as arising from the 1991 transaction. Given the manner in which the

1991 transaction arose, it seemed to their Lordships to be no answer to dismiss what happened after 1986 as mere fiction. Whether considered as historic

events, or as material facts giving rise to a claim in respect of civil liability, what happened to Mr Taylor was real enough.

He had the fate of his earlier investment misrepresented to him, and on that basis, instead of asking a hone fide transaction, at least on

due to be repaid should be left with investment for a further five years In sum, their Lordships consid ered that the 1991 claim was in accord with the wording of rule on the evidence before them. ICS might be satisfied under the rules that Mr Taylor had a claim against Beechcroft which was a scheme business claim as defined there. Solicitors: Robinsons, Derby:

# extend time

Director of Public Prosecutions v Coleman Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Garland

Judgment November 26 A judge was entitled to grant an application for an extension of time for applying for a case to be stated by the crown court without involving in the decision the other inbers of the court which heard

Where the prosecution made such an application, the acquitted defendant was entitled to make representations to the court before the application was determined. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved indement when dismissing an appeal by the prosecution by way, of case stated from Southwark Crown Court (Judge Mercer and justices) which bad allowed an from her conviction by Mr Roger Davis, Horseferry Road Metro-politan Stipendiary Magistrate, for failing to provide a specimen of

Mr Nigel J. Ley for the defen-dant: Mr John McGuinness for the

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the prosecution's application out of time to the crown court to state a case had been heard by the judge on his own without the two justices who had tried the appeal in the crown court with him, and the defendant had not had the opportunity to make representa-tions. The judge had allowed the application, extending the time limit under rule 26(14) of the Crown Court Rules (SI 1982 No 1109). Two questions arose:

The first was whether the judge was entitled to grant such an extension of time without involving the other members of the court which had heard the appeal. In his Lordship's Judgment the use of the expression "crown court" rather than "judge" in rule 26(14) did not require the participation of the other justices, but reflected the possibility that some other judge might consider the application. A judge was entitled to consider an application for extension of time on

The second question whether an acquitted defendant was entitled to make representations to the court before such an application was determined. In his Lordship's judgment, an acquitted defendant was entitled to expect that he would hear no more of the allegation against him, subject to the prosecution's right of appeal.

A situation in which the prosecution could extend that right by seeking an extension of time, without the defendant having the opportunity to make representa-tions would be intolerable.

The procedure which should be followed upon a prosecution application to extend time in which to apply to state a case was as

I The defendant should be notified of the application. 7 The terms of the application should be disclosed to him and he should be told of his right to make

3 The court should consider the representations of both parties and the defendant should have the opportunity to deal with all representations made by the DFOSECUDIOTA.

The court could normally consider the application on the basis of need for an oral hearing would rarely arise.
Extensions of time should not

routinely be granted to the prosecution, but cogent reasons should be required of them, to be considered against the back-ground that an acquitted defendant had some expectation that, subject to rule 26, the case was at The judge had not been entitled

to grant the extension of time and defendant's acquittal must Mr Justice Garland agreed. Solicitors: J. E. Armah & Co.

Levionstone: Crown Prosecution

### Judge has power to Challenging independent school assisted place decision

Regina v Cobham Hall School, Ex parte S Before Mr Justice Dyson Uturlament November 271

Decisions of independent schools participating in the assisted places scheme were susceptible to judicial Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division and de-clared unlawful (on November 28) a decision of Cobham Hall School, Kent, to withdraw from S, a pupil, aged 14, acting by her mother and next triend, her assisted place. Mrs Wendy Outhwaite for the school; Mr Gerard Clarke for the

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that in 1996 the applicant was selected for an assisted place at the school which was run by a company

The school was a participating school for the purposes of the assisted places scheme which was governed by sections 479 to 481 of the Education Act 1996 and the Education Assisted Places Regula-tions (SI 1995 No 2016) The assisted olaces scheme was discontinued by the Education (Schools) Act 1997 but assisted places granted prior to the 1997-1998 school year were to

Continue in place.
On June 27, 1997 the head teacher of the school informed the applicant's parents by telephone and in writing that her assisted

Regina v Brown (Jamie)

of a submission of no case.

A judge had a responsibility to consider whether there was evi-

dence on which the jury could safely convict, even in the absence

The Court of Appeal flord
Justice Rose, Mr Justice Holland
and Judge Clarke, QC) so stated on
November 17 when allowing the

appeal of Jamie Brown against his

conviction on May 16, 1997 at Northampton Crown Court (Judge

Julian Hall and a jury) of robbery.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said

to that the applicant had been in detentions and on report for unacceptable behaviour and had produced poor examination results. No opportunity for representations or any appeal against the decision was allowed.

Mrs Outhwaite submitted that the school was not a public body. It was a private independent school with a chain of contracts between the school and the parents of pupils. The school was not a public body in relation to pupils with assisted places as the source of its power was not statutory but to be found in the participating agree-ment between it and the secretary

of state. Mr Clarke submitted that in most contexts the school was not a public body but that as regarded pupils within the assisted places scheme it was carrying out the functions of a public body within statutory framework: see R vGovernors of Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College Trust, Ex parte T (The Times October 19, 1994) were a decision of city technology college was held susceptible to judicial review.

His Lordship said that on reviewing the evidence objectively the decision taken by the head teacher was to withdraw and resillocate the assisted place and not to expei the applicant.

Can jury safely convict?

evidence a trial judge was of the

view that no reasonable jury

vict, generally speaking he should

raise that view for discussion with

counsel in the absence of the jury.

whether or not a submission of no

case had been made at the conclu-

sion of the prosecution case. If, having heard submissions, he remained of that view he should withdraw the case from the jury.

That would make it unlikely that

difficulties would arise from a trial

properly directed could safely con-

to hear judicial review proceed-ings: see R v Panel on Take-overs and Mergers, Ex parte Datafin plc (1987) 1 QB 815).

As to pupils with assisted places, the school was exercising a public function. Parliament had empowered the secretary of state to fund the education of pupils with assisted places at independent schools. The Act and the Regulations defined the criteria for ad-mission and gave the secretary of state a power of control over the funding of the school.

Regarding private law it was doubtful whether there was a contract between the school and the parents of pupils as no consideration had passed and there was no intention to create legal It was clear the school was

acting beyond its powers as the Act and Regulations gave it no por to withdraw an assisted place. It was not necessary to consider Wednesbury unreasonableness [1948] 1 KB 223) but the overwhelming impression was that the school's action was completely unexpected to the applicant who was given no opportunity to make any appeal or representa-tions. In that the school acted contrary to the rules of natural JUSTICE.

Solicitors: Brachers, Maidstone Teacher Stern Selby.

Appeal expressing doubt about the safety of the jury's verdict.

As was said in R v Jones

(unreported, CA, May 10, 1997) it

was not the job of a judge either to

decide guilt or to cast doubt on a

jury's finding.
Their Lordships would not have

regard to a letter written in this

case, but because the judge did not direct the jury what to do if they rejected the appellant's alibi evi-dence, the verdict could not be

#### bated by pregnancy, and the woman went on to conceive and give birth to a healthy wanted child, there was no loss which

Judgment November 25

Authority

could give rise to a claim for damages in respect of the normal expenses of pregnancy and the cost of bringing up the child. Even if the conception and pregnancy could be regarded as a form of damage, the connection between the breach of duty and the

damage was too remote as the radiologist's duty did not extend to the woman's private life. The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allow-ing the appeal by Croydon Health

Authority against part of the award by Mr Justice Astill of May 15, 1997 of damages to Mrs R. Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Miss E. A. Gumbel for Mrs R; Mr Adrian Whitfield, QC and Miss Mary O'Rourke for the health

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that Mr Whitfield submitted that in every case in England in which damages had been awarded for a "wrongful birth" the child had been either not wanted at all

Partly because of the width of the Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord field it was not possible to devise an approach which would indicate Justice Morritt and Lord Justice

in any given case when the damage was done which enabled Where a health authority radiolthe cause of action for personal injuries to accrue. The problem ogist examining a woman as a prospective employee failed to report a serious heart condition, Manchester Health Authority whose symptoms could be exacer-([1995] I WLR 1543, 1550C, 1553C). Conception could not always be in that class of case it preceded the breach of duty, but when the mother wanted both the preg-nancy and the healthy child, there was simply no loss which could give rise to a claim for damages in

R v Croydon Health or not wanted in its disabled

penses and trauma of pregnancy or the costs of bringing up the

argued there was no sufficient

Even if the conception and pregnancy could be regarded as a form of damage. Mr Whitfield

respect of either the normal ex-

connection between that damage and the radiologist's breach of duty to enable a court to say that the damage flowed from the

Mr Stewart relied on Page v Smith ([1996] I AC 155) which established that once a defendant owed a duty of care to avoid tiff, it mattered not whether the injury in fact sustained was physical or psychiatric or both.

His Lordship accepted entirely that a defendant must take his victim as he found him, but he did not accept that in Page v Smith the House of Lords was extending the boundaries of foreseeability in that

His Lordship accepted that the plaintiff's domestic life fell outside the scope of the radiologist's duty. Lord Justice Morritt and Lord

Justice Chadwick agreed. Solicitors: Field Fisher

#### Waterhouse: Capsticks, Putney. Losses from default

BEM Dis A Turk Ticaret S/A TR v International Agri

Trade Co Ltd Clause 28(c) of GAFTA Form 100 did not exclude a party's right to recover losses directly and naturally resulting from a defaulting party's breach of contract.

Mr Justice Clarke so held in the Queen's Bench Division on October 31 when dismissing an appeal by BEM Dis A Turk Ticarer S/A TR against an award of \$65,000 damages payable to International Agri Trade Co Ltd made by the GAFTA Board of Appeal on

HIS LORDSHIP said that the appellants had breached a contract for the sale of goods, which incorporated GAFTA Form 100, causing the respondents to have to compensate the shippers of the goods for cancellation of the

Director of Public Prosecu-

Special reasons did not apply so as

to allow the court not to disqualify a driver who had not realised that

he was drunk, but was aware of

some effect, and drove while over

the limit for alcohol because he

had become addicted to a

The Queen's Bench Divisional

Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mrs Justice Smith) so held on October 30 when allowing a

prosecution appeal against the decision of Lichfield Justices not to

disqualify Robert Jowle for driving

while over the alcohol limit but to

endorse his licence nine points and

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY

mpose a fine of £500.

tions v Jowle

gued that clause 28(c) of GAFTA 100, which stated that "damages payable shall be based on the price and either the default price .. or upon the actual or estimated alue of the goods, on the date of default..." precluded the respondents from recovering damages for

the expense of the cancellation.

In his Lordship's judgment clause 28 was intended to regulate the position where the claim was for the difference between the or the market or ascertained value. and for loss of profit. But "shall be based on" was not the same as 28(c) did not exclude claims for wasted expenditure or the kind of foreseeable loss which the respon-

said that the respondent had not knowingly drunk alcohol for 21 years. The justices found the that he was addicted to Listerine, a

mouthwash containing 26.9 per cent by volume of alcohol.

He did not associate the "lift"

obtained with the effects of alcohol.

Although aware of the effect on

In the opinion of the justices

The respondent knew that if he

had taken Listerine it would give him a lift. He drove in a way that

was plainly erratic. The appeal was allowed.

special reasons could be found for not disqualifying him. The ques-tion was whether the justices were

perverse in their decision.

him he did not feel out of control

while driving.

### **European Law Report**

#### Luxembourg Female priority need not breach equal treatment directive

rhein-Westfalen Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. Guimann, H. Ragnemahn, M. Wathelet, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, J. P.

Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jam and L. Sevón Advocate General F. G. Jacobs (Opinion May 15) (Judgment November 11) A national rule whereby female

Marschall v Land Nord- under-represented in the post, unless reasons specific to an in-dividual male candidate tilted the balance in his favour, was not contrary to the Community equal treatment directive, provided certain conditions were satisfied.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC

Treaty by the Verwaltungsgericht (Administrative Court), Gelsenkirchen, Germany.
Paragraph 25 of the Law on Civil
Servants of the Land Nordheincandidates for promotion were to be given priority over equally Westfalen provided that where qualified men if women were there were fewer women than men

Recognition of documents issued

by other states

in a particular higher grade post in given priority for promotion in the event of equal suitability, competence and professional performance, "unless reasons specific to an individual [male] candidate tilt

the balance in his favour". The plaintiff's application for promotion to an Al3 teaching post was rejected on the ground that in career bracket Al3, so that a particular female candidate who was equally qualified would be

in its judgment the European Court of Justice held: In Kalanke v Freie Hansestadt

However, the rule in the present case was different, by reason of the saving clause at the end. It was necessary to consider whether such a rule came within article 2/4) of the directive. That provision was specifically and exclusively designed to authorise measures which, al-

76J207.:

eliminate or reduce actual in-stances of inequality which might exist in the reality of social life. It thus authorised measures relating to access to employment, including promotion, which gave a specific advantage to women with a view to improving their ability to compete on the labour market and

to pursue a career on an equal

(paragraph 19).

footing with men: see Kalanke

It appeared that even where male and female candidates were equally qualified, men tended to be promoted in preference to women particularly because of prejudices and stereotypes concerning the role and capacities of women in role and capacines of women in working life and the fear, for example, that women would interrupt their careers more frequently, that owing to household and family duties they would be less flexible in their working hours, or that they would be absent from work more frequently because of pregnancy, childbirth and heastfeeding.

eastleeding. that a male and female candidate were equally qualified did not mean that they had the same

terms of which, subject to the application of the saving clause, equally qualified female can-didates were to be treated preferentially in sectors where they were within the scope of article 2(4) if such a rule might counteract the prejudicial effects on female can-didates of the attitudes and behaviour described above, and thus reduce actual instances of

stituted a derogation from an individual right laid down in the directive, such a national measure could not guarantee absolute and unconditional priority for women without going beyond the limits of the exception laid down in that provision: see Kalanke (para-graphs 21 and 22).

But a national rule containing a saving clause such as that in the present case did not exceed those limits if, in each individual case, it provided for certain conditions to be satisfied. The Court ruled:

A national rule which, in a case where there were fewer women than onen at the level of the relevant post in a sector of the public service and both female and male candidates for the post were equally qualified in terms of their suitability, competence and prothat priority be given to the promotion of female candidates unless reasons specific to an individual male candidate tilted the balance in his favour, was not precluded by article 2(1) and (4) of Directive 76/207, provided that:

(I) In each individual case the rule provided for male candidates who were equally as qualified as the female candidates a guarantee that the candidatures would be the subject of an objective assessment which would take account of all criteria specific to the candidates and would override the priority accorded to female candidates where one or more of those criteria tilted the balance in favour of the male candidate, and (Z) Such criteria were not such as

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competent social security institu-

Württemberg

individual case in question. The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on tion of it made by a Greek court. December 2 on a reference under

by concrete evidence relating to the

Dafeki v Landesver- article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Socialgericht (Social Court), Hamburg for a preliminary ruling on a question of interpretation of artiles 48 and 51 of the Treaty. on freedom of movement for workers.

In proceedings for determining the The proceedings concerned the refusal of an application by Mrs benefits of a migrant worker who Dafeki, who was of Greek nationality and worked in Germany. for early retirement benefit, on the tions and the courts of a member ground that under German law a state had to accept certificates and presumption of accuracy was accorded to certificates of civil status analogous documents relative to issued in Germany but not to ones personal status issued by the competent authorities of the other drawn up in another country, and that accordingly, under further, related. German law, account member states, unless their accuracy was seriously undermined would be taken only of Mrs. Dateki's original birth certificate. and not of a subsequent rectifica-

The Court drew attention to the

national legal orders as to the conditions and procedures for rectification of a date of birth. which had not yet been the subject of harmonisation or mutual recog nition, and said that while the administrative and judicial authorities of a member state were not required under Community law to treat subsequent rectifications of certificates of civil status made by the competent authorities of their own state and ones by the authorities of another state as conivalent, nevertheless exercise of the rights arising from freedom of movement for workers was not possible without production of documents releave to personal status, which were generally is-

sued by the worker's state of

wide differences existing in the

graph 25 was incompatible with Council Directive 76/207/EEC of February 9, 1976 on the im-plementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions (OJ 1976 1.39, p40). Article 2 of Directive 76/207 provides: "(1) ... the principle of equal treatment shall mean that

whatsoever on grounds of sex either directly or indirectly... "(4) This directive shall be without prejudice to measures to pro-mote equal opportunity for men and women, in particular by removing existing inequalities which affect women's opportu-

ere shall be no discrimi

Bremen (The Times October 26, 1995; [1996] ICR 344; [1995] ECR 1-3051, puragraph 16), the court had held that a national rule which provided that, where equally qualified men and women were can-didates for the same promotion in fields where there were fewer women than men at the level of the relevant post, women were automatically to be given priority, involved discrimination on the ground of sex contrary to Directive

For those reasons, the mere fact

It followed that a national rule in

under-represented could though discriminatory in appear-

to discriminate against the female

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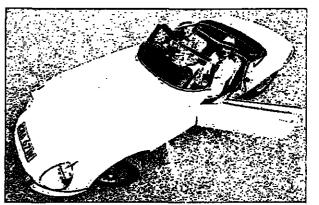
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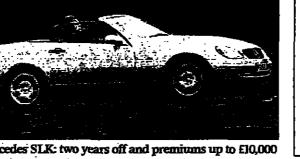


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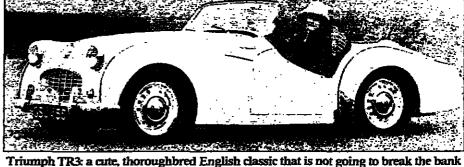
E-type: definitive, and still the most beautiful of sportsters

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Mercedes SLK: two years off and premiums up to £10,000





You won't be getting 007's new car for Christmas. It's just one of the models on a long waiting list, says **Kevin Eason** 

he sighed and rolled over on the crisp while linen sheets, her cobalt blue eyes piercing deep into his. This Christmas could be their last together if Smersh had its way, so there had to be one last gift. memory of their ecstatic mo

\*\***T** 

"Just leave the your car James," she whispered, caress ing the nape of his neck trailing each contour in his muscled shoulders. BMW. I will remember you always in that car. Every time I change gear, you will be in

Bond - for the name was James Bond — examined her face for a moment, her chin tilted upwards as though ap pealing for that one thing only he could give. But this was something not even Bond

"I think not, my darling," he whispered. "Six months. Six months. That's how long it takes to get a Z3. Get your own car for Christmas."

When the irresistible forces of demand meet the immovable object of factories working flat out, not even Bond can have the car of his dreams. If you were thinking of

nipping out to the showroom this week to surprise your girlfriend/wife/husband/ daughter/son/secret contact with a superb sports car on Christmas morning, forget it. The list of cars you cannot have for Christmas is long ... and growing ever longer. The Z3 Bond uses to dash

around his latest movie, Tomorrow Never Dies, is definitely off the Christmas list. Order today and the first you will see the BMW's pretty American made bodywork is likely to be in June. Unless you really are determined, and then you will have to pay over the list price for a used motor. Sellers are demanding pre-miums up to £4,000 for the

meaty 2.9-litre version, al- from the factory in Hethel, though £1,000 over list will get Norfolk; any Ferrari, up to two you a P-plated 1.9-litre with a years' wait; MGF, 16 weeks of few thousand miles on the

Things are even worse for buyers desperate for Mercedes "baby" sports car, the SLK. Waiting lists are up to two years and advertisers might seem optimistic setting placed today will not be ful-filled this side of Easter. Even premiums up to £10,000, but they are making money, such is the degree of demand out there in the marketplace. The signs that Britain is booming and spending money is in the market for exotic cars.

and Rover put its new Freelander in the showrooms this month and immediately had a list of names on its books that means orders

the lovable yet venerable Defender — the earthy, rugged old workhorse - has a 10week order book, such is demand at the moment for almost any niche product. Each time a manufacturer launches a car, it seems dealers are knocked down in the waiting list, Lotus Elise, 18 rush through the showrooms, months before one arrives with customers waving

chequebooks, desperate for anything which has even a smidgeon more personality

Porsche Boxster

than the family hatchback.
"It is incredible," said one dealer yesterday. "Everybody has a family car or a runabout, but there is such a huge choice of cars these days, people want anything that isn't just the usual boring old hatchback." And there you are this morning, bereft of ideas with

your partner dropping Christ-mas hints with the subtlety of a sledgehammer. You know, the odd magazine on the sofa with the page carelessly tossed open at the advert for a cool Fiat Barchetta (waiting list five months) or the exaggerated hand-over-mouth excitement when a little Porsche Boxster (more than a year) oozes past.

plenty of exotic and glamorous sports cars around, they just come with personalities less Tom Cruise and more Terry-Thomas. Flick through adverts for classic cars and they are all there, glorious, gorgeous - and a hell of a lot cheaper than new metal.

So you can't get hold of Bond's BMW, then forget it and go for a real Bond car, a beautiful Aston Martin. An authentic DB5 could cost the price of three Z3s but a lookalike DB6 could be had for around £25,000 - and, be honest, the neighbours will never know the difference. Or go for a thoroughbred English classic, a cute TR3 is not going to break the bank or

what is probably still the best-

selling British sports car on the market: the MGB. Ignore pretentious anorak collector's hype about only owning a model with chrome bumpers (the original design). Rubber bumpered MGBs are plentiful, cheap (around £5,000 will do nicely) and look as good as any new car.

Even a Jaguar E-type — definitive, still fast and still the most beautiful of sportsters will turn up in classic show-rooms at £25,000, even less

Just make sure your classic has as much paperwork as you can get hold of and get the car checked over for rot which can be covered up by experts and end up causing you lots of New Year heartache. Mechanically, the car is likely to be quite simple, and even a smoky engine can be replaced or repaired at a fraction of the cost of a modern car.

One other thing: if you choose a classic, chances are that for relatively little money. you can push the boat out - or in the case of one classic this week, a remarkable Lagonda that looks like a boat. The William Towns-

designed Lagonda was Aston Martin's wonderful folly. With styling by Thunderbirds and interiors by Leatherworld, the Lagonda looks so fantastically daft, it has created its own little niche in the world of motoring. And this week. there was one advertised in Classic Car Weekly, a 1981 model in pearl white with sumptuous grey interior for ... £12,950. That's about the

price of a Ford Fiesta Ghia. For that you get a car that will turn every head in the multi-storey and have kids falling off their bikes as their jaws drop and they gape at its barge-like bonnet nosing through the traffic. Bond's BMW could never match it.

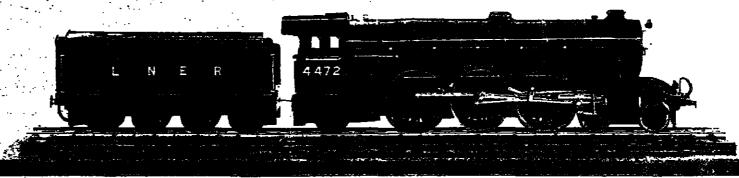
#### Bargains from a small world

# Model gifts for big boys

ven the most exotic modes of transport can be a bargain ... just so long as you are not expecting to go anywhere. There is a gorgeous Bugatti up for auctioniust waiting to put a smile on the face of its new owner this Christmas. Price between £4,000 and £8,000, only one owner and absolutely no mileage at all, Kevin Eason writes.

Except that this superb sports car is a half-scale model created by engineer Brian Lewis, now believed to be living in the United States. The Bugatti Type 59 replica

heads a list of 260 toys being auctioned on Wednesday at Hotel in London's Knights bridge by Brooks. But don't take the kids, because these are toys for the boys who never grew-up and have some of the mortgage money to spend on a Christmas treat. There are trains, boots and cars galore, from the exotic to he rare and including the sorts of toys which once topped entire families from ating on time as the dining able was turned into an extension of Railtrack and



Bassett-Lowke's 4-6-2 Flying Scotsman model steam engine in LNER livery, made in 1936 as part of a small batch, which could fetch as much as £3,500

covered by scaled-down engineering work.
The names of Triang.

Ring any dealer and they will

all tell the same story: there

aren't any new cars to be had.

Jaguar XK8: six months'

Homby and Dinky loom large in the catalogue, triggering memories for a generation brought up on toys chunky and beautifully made and which didn't owe any allegiance to the dreaded telerision screen or computer keyboard. All much more

tempting under the tree than another brown sweater and slippers from Auntie Madge. Like the Bugatti, which took
Lewis around 1,500 hours to
build after studying factory
drawings and consulting the

the Bugatti Trust to ensure its incredible accuracy. He is thought to have made the car, powered by a 24-volt electric motor and dry cell motor, Brooks thinks the won-

batteries, for his son. Perhaps he thought it too pretty for a child; in any event, it is a star attraction and should encourage some lively bidding from enthusiasts with an empty space in the display cabinet. As will the gorgeous 4-6-2 Flying Scotsman steam engine made by Bassett-Lowke. Powered by a 20-volt DC

derful locomotive and tender, in the green livery of the London and North Eastern Railway, was made in 1936 as part of a small batch and could fetch as much as £3,500. For the armchair matelot,

there is a lovely Parisian riverboat, called La Sirêne by Maltete et Parents. The clockwork model, made around 1900, is only 75 centimetres

long but could be worth £8,000 due to its rarity. But those who never quite

grew up will be pressing their noses up against the meta-phorical window pane to choose from an array of Dinkys and tinplate toys: cars, trucks, trains, fire engines, buses, road sweepers, snowploughs, car transporters. there are clockwork and electric toys, steam trains and Pullman coaches and even two Meccano sets, including a number 10 in wooden box complete with trays (£350). And there is a collection of wonderful shunters - tank engines for those whose memories stretch beyond Thomas and his railway chums - in the liveries of almost every pre-nationalisation rail company you could think of, being sold by Allen Levy, one of Britain's top collectors.

But my eye was stirred by a little working display model of a Hornby 0-4-0 locomotive in LNER livery still with its bright red box and clockwork key. Asking price is likely to be around £250 though, so Mrs Eason might have to go without a satsuma in her Christmas stocking this year if the man of the house is to have any fun. It is the perfect pre-Christmas sale of everything for the average 10-yearold ... going on 40.

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The bicycle you buy your child for Christmas, for all its high tech and high price, will lack three items of equipment — pump, mudguards and lights

# It comes with two wheels. That's it

he modern bicycle has a name which dates from 1869, although it had several antecedents, including a French contraption called the célérifère, which consisted of two wheels attached to a wooden beam. There were no handlebars: the rider sat on the beam and steered by pushing his feet against the ground

Not an idea guaranteed to sweep the Teletubbies off the shelves at Christmas, but in 1816 the Germans, always up for improving on anything done by the French, developed the first two-wheeled vehicle with its own steering. This became known as a draisine, after the eponymous inventor. Various improvements were developed elsewhere, including a version in England called a hobby horse. The French got back in the race





Barnard

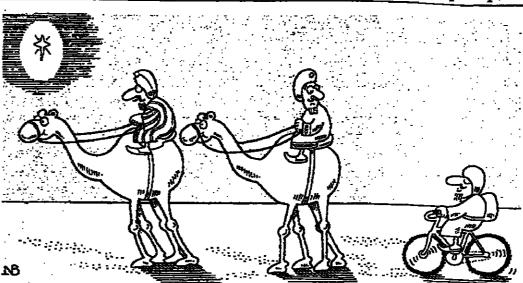
with the wonderfully-named velocipede, pretty much the father of the which swept France in the 1850s, had a frame and wheels made of wood. The tyres were made of iron: it saved people having to pump them up, which in one particular

the modern cyclist, who is often expected to fork out a lot of cash for

a bike with no pump.

Why, to crystallise all of this into a single question, is bicycle design going backwards? Of course some anorak will now write in to explain that bicyle technology has never been so advanced. Well, I know the materials used are lighter and stronger than ever, and I know that mountain bikes, the Range Rovers of one-wheel drive, look erribly snazzy and are all the rage. This does not alter the fact that

the bicycle you are buying your child for Christmas, for all its high tech and high price, will, unless you take special care - and spend even more money - be parked next to the Christmas tree lacking three items of equipment -pump, mudguards and lights.



It is a curious fact that in recent years all the safety developments surrounding bicycles have gone into the rider rather than the machine. Few cyclists would be seen out minus a brightly-coloured helmet. They would not dream of venturing on to the roads late in the day without the sort of reflective clothing that could be used to

illuminate navigation hazards in

the North Sea. Cyclists cannot hold their heads up in polite society unless they have those little plastic reflectors on the back which twinkle like stars when a car headlight is shone on them.

And there is the rub. All of this safety equipment only works when a light is projected from another vehicle. Absolutely nothing that comes as standard equipment with

a mountain bike

of the hybrids that look like

mountain bikes - offers the cyclist

means of illumination that is independent of other vehicles. My own bike, a hybrid, looks ultra-modern at first sight, but if you give the thing a few minutes' thought, some of its characteristics are out of the last century. It has no on the frame where a pump can be fixed. There are no mudguards, or lights, there are not even any reflectors. It is, in poor lighting conditions, invisible.

The argument that these bikes are designed for off-road use and therefore have to be devoid of clutter and do not need safety features such as lights is absolute tosh. They are used day to day, at least we are all being encouraged to use them day to day. Yet without extra bits and pieces they are positively lethal.

The Highway Code makes it clear that bicyles used at night must have lights and reflectors. That is a legal requirement and in my view manufacturers ought to meet minimum legal requirements by selling bicycles that have lights and reflectors at an inclusive price.

If bicycles are to be encouraged as the modern urban transport, then the manufacturers will have to wise up to the market. In effe t, they are being asked to compete with car manufacturers, though I cannot recall hearing of anyone who has driven a four-wheel drive, or any other vehicle, away from a showroom and then had to nip round to the parts department to have it fitted with lights and

# The Ab Fab way to reach Harvey Nicks



Stylish carriage: Leather upholstery, air-conditioning, mirrored ceilings with fibre optic lighting, two TVs, video, £13,000 stereo system and cocktail bar — it's the only way to shop



Allstar luxury: as used by Engelbert Humperdinck

#### YOUR CAR

 The limousine seats 10 people in comfort and can be hired from around £80 for a single journey, to between £500-£600 for a shopping day from York-shire to London. Allstar Limousines at Knottingley near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, tel: 01977 your own car and filling it up with passengers would be very cheap, but iust think of the

#### TRAIN

parking problem.

 The standard second class return rail fare from Huddersfield to London is £48. First class. which is more comparable to the luxury of the limo, would be £160. There are, of course, special offers and the cheapest of these - known as a Fab Four return is just £49 for four passengers from Wakefield to King's Cross. But these are available in very limited numbers and have to be booked well in advance. The fare from Huddersfield to Wakefield is £2, and an Underground Day Card for the Central Area will cost you £3.20. The train from Huddersfield at 7.32am arrives at King's Cross at

A return at 8pm arrives at 11pm.

By far the cheapest

#### BUS

way is to take the bus, but it doesn't leave much time for shopping. The National Express ser-vice costs just £18 return. The bus leaving Huddersfield at 7.30am gets to Victoria at 12.20pm, but the last one back the same day leaves at 17.30pm, arriving at 22.05pm, so dining out is not on unless you choose to wait for the 23\_30pm from Victoria. which gets you back to Huddersfield at 6.35 next morning. You can't leave parcels on the bus while you go to find more presents, and you'd still need to Tube or taxi round town and from the bus station to home.

## Thoughtful developments

Vaughan Freeman on the new Passat

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elted chocolates is thing of the past in VW's latest contribution to motoring luxury - an airconditioned glovebox. No longer need car occupants in VW's allnew turbodiesel Passat estate suffer from molten bars on the motorway. The neat touch, like a third sun visor that fills that irritating dazzling gap between the driver and passenger visors, shows VW has really thought about this car.

The main attraction, however - along with an 11-year bodywork warranty - is a direct injection diesel engine which the German manufacturer claims is the most efficient engine ever in a car. That translates into fuel consumption of more than 50mpg overall and almost 63mpg out of town, along with a top speed of 118mph.

The Passat estate looks and feels less like a mass produced VW car, and more like a product from the exclusive Audi arm of the company empire.

In the rear, a sculpted roof gives ample head room for passengers over oft tail. An added bonus for those prepared to pay the optional £103 is a third middle three point lap and chest seatbelt. Safety is enhanced by anti-lock brakes and dual airbags as standard, and side airbags as a £200 option.

The power steering is very light (and will be too light for some), although it comes in



Passat Estate: like a product from the Audi arm of VW's empire

PASSAT ESTATE Engine: 1.9-litre direct

injection turbodiesel producing 110bhp at 4,150rpm, through fivespeed manual gearbox. Performance: 0-60mph in 12 secs, top speed 110mph. Economy: 39.2mpg in town, 62.8mpg out of town, 51.4mpg combined. Equipment Anti-lock brakes, dual airbags, engine immobiliser, adjustable steering wheel. Price: £17,750 to £21,000.

handy on a car that is 77mm longer, 25mm wider and 50mm taller than the one it replaces, resulting in an increased rear space totalling 56.5 cubic feet with the rear seat folded.

'Also very light is the five-spec manual gearchange. The Pas-sat's diesel engine is well insulated, and at idle and low speed it is quiet. When pushed, although it does not get noisy, there is a low tumble and a feeling that this is a

less smooth unit than you would expect in an equivalent petrol car. The death knell for estate cars was said to have been sounded by the people movers, cars such as the Renault Espace and Ford Galaxy. Petrol lans were also forecasting the demise of diesels as successive reports found fault

The Passat turbodiesel estate proves them wrong on all counts. With the optional fifth three point seatbelt, it is a fine family-sized car and features an exceptional engine that is smooth, economical, powerful and very clean. As if to prove the point: those

seeking a reasonable sized dieselcowered estate are almost spoilt for choice in this sector. Rivals include the L8-litre Ford Mondeo turbodiesel Ghia (£18,500), Vauxhall's 2-litre TDi Vectra GLS (£19,000), and the Renault Laguna 22 td RT (£18,000).

For many though, the VW engine will make the decision for them. Emissions of harmful gases are almost zero, and a catalytic converter, still rare on diesels, removes visible smoke and halves emissions of particulates.

icture a cold, dark, wet morning at Huddersfield railway station, where 10 friends have arranged to meet at 7.30am for a Christmas shopping trip to London. They arrive in ones and twos, dropped off by husbands, partners, parents dragged out of bed for the short drive from homes round and about

the West Yorkshire town. But they are not meeting at the railway station to go and queue at a ticket office and then stand still longer on a draughty platform waiting for a train. The station is simply a convenient point for a

Parked outside in isolated spiendour is 30-feet of super stretch limousine, whose interior is white, warm and dry. The women, all twenty- and thirty-somethings. climb in through a rear door opened courteously by Alex Gibb, their driver for the day, smart in a suit, but who draws the line at "poncy chauffeur's gear".

What he's driving is seriously upmarket, a Lincoln Town car Royal Coach superstretch limou-sine, custom-built in Los Angeles. with an £84,000 price tag. Little Richard, Roberta Flack, Ray Charles, Fats Domino and Engelbert Humperdinck have all used them on British tours.

Powered by a 4.6-litre, 210bhp V8 engine, it seats 10 in the rear and averages 14mpg on the motorway. 9 around town. It has leather upholstery, air conditioning, mirrored ceilings with fibre optic lighting, two TVs, a video, a £13,000 stereo system and cocktail bar.

At 7.45am the car pulls away for a shopping trip with style followed by dinner at a fashionable restaurant and the whole day out presents and dinner apart - will cost each participant just £5 more than the standard second class return rail fare. Organised by Joanne Whiteley and Sarah Binks,

#### **Lynne Greenwood** joins the Huddersfield women who hired an £84,000 stretch

#### limousine for West End shopping in style

hear all

never

pass it on'

tax inspectors in the same office, the £530 deal — £53 each — includes door-to-door shopping in London as being polite is concerned," he £530 deal — £53 each — includes door-to-door shopping in London like to have a laugh with them." and a taxi home for everyone.

"We were working overtime back in August, we had a hangover, and decided to book the limo to cheer ourselves up." says Sarah, 32, mother of a three-year-old daughter. "It's a great way to go shopping you don't need a taxi or a Tube, there's somewhere to leave your

ered home to the door." The darkened windows of the custom-built limousine create a tantalising illusion of celebrity status, both inside and out. So while curicars on the M1 can only stare, wave and speculate on its cargo, the limo ladies uncork the Buck's Fizz, unwrap the

baes and you're deliv-

fresh croissants and relax first to the stereo sound of George Michael and then with Grease on video. With one half-hour break at the motorway services for coffee and a cigarette - smoking is not allowed

in the car for fear of an expensive upholstery burn - the journey to central London takes three and three-quarter hours. Alex, who admits "this is better

than delivering a truck-load of tomatoes", enjoys the London run and prides himself on getting the measure of his passengers quickly and adapting his humour accordingly. Boxer Prince Naseem and Premiership footballers Carlton Palmer and Lee Sharpe are among the people he drives.

"I treat everyone the same as far

An early wisecrack that he'll tell the curious that his passengers are "winners of the readers" wives contest in Fiesta magazine" prompts a laugh which tells Alex he's on safe ground. "Some of the hen nights we do can get a bit wild

— they get the music whacked up in

here and have a party. I see and hear all sorts, but I never pass it on. The journey down is 'I see and fuelled by pickings from £30 worth of food bought the previous day. The girl talk was sorts, but all of presents and personal shopping and who was doing what or

going where for Christ-

mas and the new year.

In London, where outsiders peer in and even pose for a hurried snap with the limo, there are screams of laughter as more than one camera is pointed at the open door as the friends climb out. "We could be a double dose of Spice Girls, quips

samebody. Alex drops the women in Hanover Square, handy for both Oxford Street and Regent Street, and arranges to be back in two hours. While he sets off in search of a Jetwash, anxious to return with a glearning white car, the shoppers

head off for their first foray. At 1.30pm Alex is waiting ready to help load the first armfuls of gifts into the limo's enormous boot. He's keen to know their plans for the next part of the trip. After some discussion, the women - solicitor, hairdresser, medical secretary, cashier, psychiatric nurse, swimming instructor, care worker, accounts assistant and the two tax inspectors - decide on Knightsbridge next for Harrods and Harrey Nicks.

Parking should be a problem, but limos, it seems, may venture where normal cars would not dare to halt. Alex manoeuvres round several London squares before pulling into a bus lay-by directly opposite Harrods. The women arrange to be back at 5.30mm for the drive to their dinner date at Planet Hollywood; Alex finds a quiet street where he can watch a video and sleep for an hour.

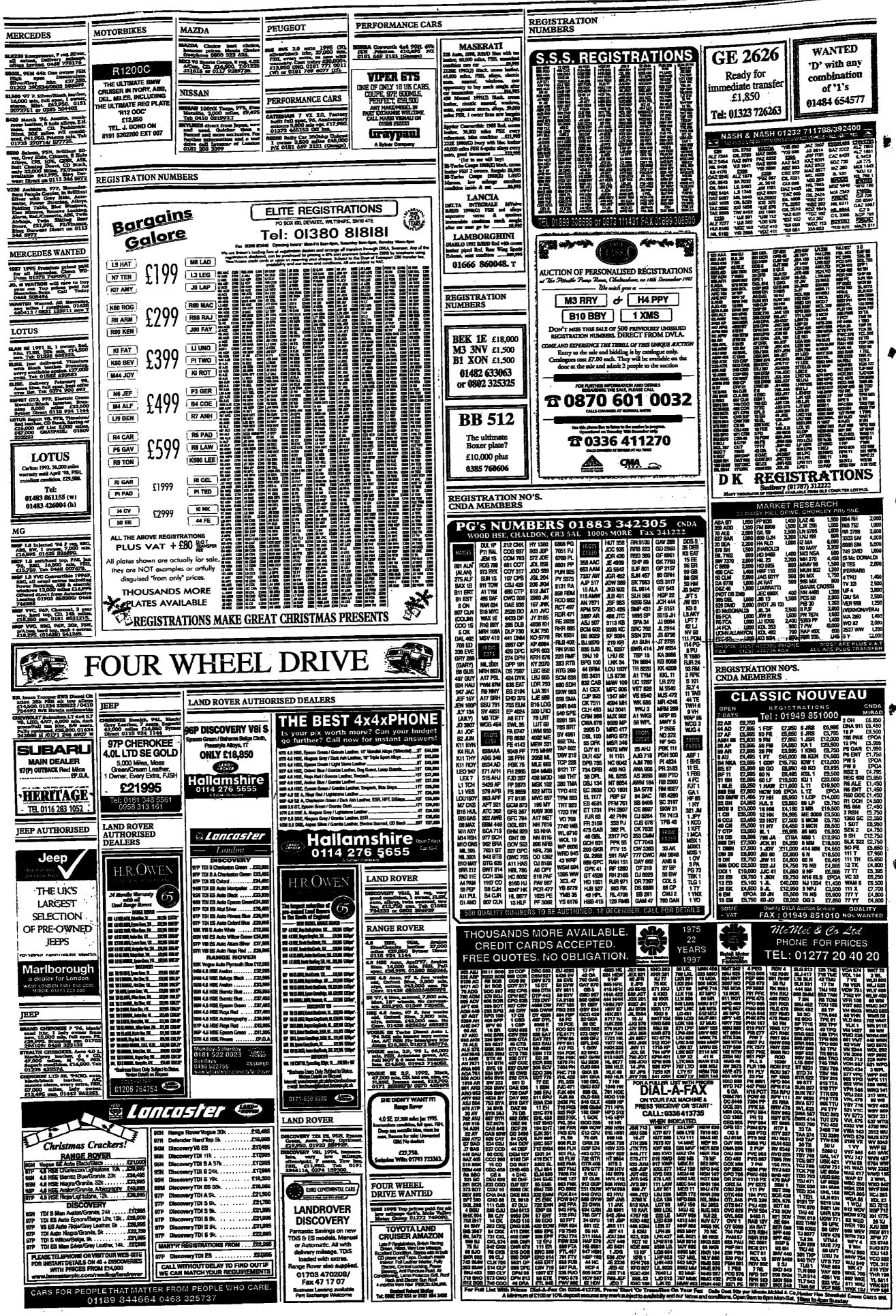
ow the serious shopping starts. Solicitor Helen O'Hara, who knows London better most of the rest after spending four years at university there, and her sister, Kathryn, want presents for their father, "the man who has everything". Others are searching for gifts for husbands, parents and grandmas as well as clothes shopping for themselves.

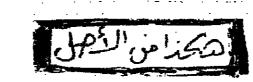
Laden with carriers, they are back in the car at 5.30pm for Planet Hollywood where "jump-the-queue" tickets obtained in advance mean there's not too long to wait and at 8.30pm it's home time. "It's so good to be able to take my boots off and start on the gin and tonics!"

said Joanne. On the way home the contents of some carriers are displayed for approval, some gifts for children some dresses and shoes for the shoppers themselves.

With Father of the Bride 2 showing on the video, some doze in the warmth and comfort of the limousine's interior. By midnight most of the women are back home, all determined to repeat the trip for a birthday, hen night . . . or another

to 1pm. :lephone ded the he name dability. nacks of W1 6XL.





Cycl puts he st

11/2

# Cycle of time puts bikes in the shop again

ship to futuristic cycle shop/cafe/fitness centre must be the ultimate example of just how quickly attitudes are changing towards personal transport.

A century ago the cycle and the horse were king; the car all but killed both off. Now as cycling stages a remarkable comeback while politicians and individuals seek a way out of interminable traffic jams, the Liverpool Cycle Centre provides a neat metaphor for shifting transport trends.

Once a car showroom, the centre is not just about selling puncture repair kits, cheap bikes for Christmas and spare inner tubes. The aim is less about selling cycles, more

about selling cycling.

Partners Alan Bate and Simon O'Brien want cycling made easier, to promote its obvious advantages over the car, especially in crowded city centres. Not just to publicise its health aspects, but to take practical steps so people see the advantages of cycling rath-

er than driving to work. The centre's Hub Café, feacar showroom is

now a unique centre for two

wheels. Vaughan

Freeman reports

cycle forks, while tables and chairs are built out of cycle frames and drop handlebars. Even the salt and pepper pots are made from wheel hubs. The theory of cycling, rather

than motoring, as an alterna-tive way of life, turns to practice with the centre's free "bike and go" service for commuters. Office workers simply cycle to the centre, lock up their bikes there in secure storage, shower and change, then head for work in the office blocks a few minutes' walk

As part of the centre's "green" packaging, ecologically-friendly solar heating pan-els supply two-thirds of the hot tures light fittings made from water, and low energy lighting

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K1 KKX

illuminates the huge wrought-iron cycle wheels that feature

Fitness checks are available to local workers who can have their heart rates and aembic fitness levels assessed while pedailing static cycle machines in the velogym, then get advice on how to improve their physical stamina.

The latest venture is a health and fitness "hit squad", which visits businesses, assesses stress levels among staff and draws up a cycle-friendly employer action plan for the company. The plan outlines ways in which the company can get its workers to travel more efficiently — and more healthily — thus reducing stress levels and improving performance at work. They sell bikes as well.

Bate, a former full-time racing cyclist, says: "We live for cycling. It is in our blood. Our centre is totally different. It's not just about making money, we are desperate to prove that you can run a commercial enterprise but still henefit the environment.

"Having said that, we do believe the centre has a long-



Alan Bate, left, and Simon O'Brien: "We are desperate to prove that you can run a commercial enterprise but still benefit the environment

term future. We are a shop, a gym, a fitness centre. We offer various services, including free shower and changing facilities, and the cycle-friendly employer scheme."

Actor and former Brookside star O'Brien may not share Bate's cycling ability, but does

share his enthusiasm: "I pedal everywhere nice and slow. I was in Greenpeace years ago but felt a bit of a hypocrite driving around in a GTi.

"So I sold the car, bought a bike, and my life has im-proved so much since. Now I just want to try to convince others to try it, so they will see what difference it can make to their lives."

Bate particularly relishes the irony that their environmentally-friendly cycle shop is housed in a building that was a car saleroom for 40 years, especially as the circle has now turned completely: "Before cars were sold here it was a bike shop, and there is still a shaft running through the middle of the building where butchers' and bakers' bikes were hauled up to the service workshop."

So keen are the two to promote not just cycling, but

Britain's sporting prowess on two wheels, that they are well advanced with plans for an all-British cycling team. The aim is to take advantage of the

gigantic publicity cycling seems to attract everywhere in the world — except Britain. "It is huge in Europe and we want to form a British professional team to take on the best in the world," says Bate. The Brits have been more successful international-

ly in cycling than in any other sport in recent years, and our team includes at least four riders who have been selected

practicality: "We want sponsors sure, but we would never. ever accept sponsorship from a tobacco company, no matter how much they offered us." Can such ideals square with the harsh realities of a run-

Games in 1998."

ning a commercial shop? Bate thinks so: "We plan to be here for the long term. Cycling makes sense. Just look at how much space and room any shop like ours loses if they have to cater for customer parking and looking after the cars of their staff. 'We are optimistic about the

for the Commonwealth

Yet even here Bate is not

prepared to sacrifice ethics for

future for cycling as transport. but we need to promote it as a sport as well, to focus attention on a cheap and healthy means of getting around."

For further information, contact the centre on 0151-708 8819.



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Third Place in the Order of Merit and the **Hewitt Prize** 

> Anthony Joseph Stobart (Deloitte & Touche) London

Fourth Place in the Order of Merit and the Northcott Prize and the Railton Prize for the Paper on Management Information and Control

Preetee Jhamna (Arthur Andersen) Cambridge

Fifth Place in the Order of Merit and the Cassleton Elliott Prize and the Howitt Prize for the Paper on Business Planning and Finance

Samuel James Maddrell (Coopers & Lybrand) Cambridge Sixth Place in the Order of Merit and the Arthur Swinson Prize Paul Kevin McSheaffrey (KPMG) Leeds

Seventh Place in the Order of Merit Sarah Jane Wigglesworth (KPMG) Leeds

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Ninth Place in the Order of Merit Jonathan David Laidlow (Arthur Andersen) London

. The Knox Prize for the Paper on Financial Reporting Claire Louise Nicholson (M J Ventham & Co) Rochford

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The Little Prize for the Paper on Taxation David James Britton (Lucraft, Hodgson & Dawes) Rustington

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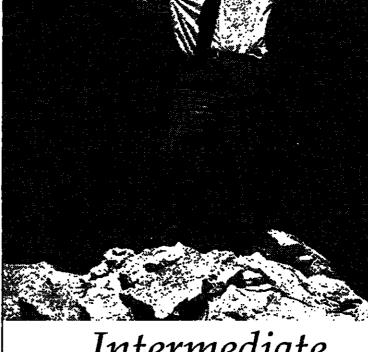
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Peachey J J, London, FR;
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Valentine J E.
Portsmouth; Van Velp
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Vane A C T, Richmond;
Vaughan C M, London;
Veenstra A F M, Jersey;
Velllard A R, Guernsey;

Verma R K. London: Verso B
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# WEEKEND

IT'S THE LIMIT 64

Savers hope the £50,000 Isa cap will be lifted



# Shareholders grow up fast in 1997

Clare Stewart and Marianne Curphey

report on a year when society flotations created thousands of new shareholders

but bad news from Asia quickly showed them that shares were not a one-way bet

The impact of the general election, the floration of some of the best-known building societies, dissent over EMU and turmoil in Asia were the defining events for the UK stock market in 1007. stock market in 1997.

Throughout the year a correction or dip in share prices — was regularly forecast by many fund managers. On several occasions it seemed about to happen, but the market always pulled back from

the brink. The year began with large gains for members of building societies who qualified for free shares on flotation. The conversion from mutual to plc of four building societies and the Norwich Union insurance company created £20 billion of free shares and greatly increased the number of people holding shares directly.

Those who sold their shares for cash made large gains, on the back of strong rises in the banking sector as a whole. Although banking shares languished in the autumn. they have recovered some of their form in the past two weeks.

There was high drama as the Nationwide Building Society faced an attempt by members to force it to demutualise. One member, Andrew Muir, 32, of Slough, is now bidding for a seat on the society's board with a view to persuading the directors to return surplus profits to members.

The general election in May was expected to turn the screens red if Labour won, but no upset occurred and the index of the top 100 companies rose nearly 200 points further in the month after election day. In September speculation about the UK joining the single European currency burst upon the market

rate policy would move closer to those on the Continent, where rates have historically been much lower. The incoming Government also gave control over interest rate

policy to the Bank of England. In the weeks that followed, share prices dipped as it became clear that the Government's European policy was still undecided and ministers played down hopes of joining

Investors had their nerves tested again in October, when turmoil in the Asian markets caught out even the most experienced stock market watchers. Some pension fund managers by now had a double headache — they had stayed out of the UK and US believing both markets to be overvalued and ripe for a fall.

Many had been touting Asia, and particularly Japan, as the new opportunity for stock market growth. Their fears were dashed when the Nikkei 225 index fell 2,000 points between the beginning of October and the end of November to a low point of 15.082.52. With worries about the Asian markets still fresh in the minds of investors, and the FTSE currently marking time, it is easy to forget how much progress the stock market has made this

Early in January the FTSE 100 was languishing just above 4,000, hitting a low for the year of 4,036. Yesterday the FTSE 100 was around the 5,050 level, having hit a peak during the year of 5,3673, which was also an all-time record for the index. Many year-end estimates from analysts and other market watchers 12 months ago now look very conservative, as expectations were for the market to end 1997 at about 4,400. "We were seen as outright bulls when we forecast 4,600 for the end of 1997." sending shares rocketing.

This was because fund managers
were hopeful that the UK's interest

forecast 4,600 for the end of 1997."
said David McBain, NatWest Markets' equity strategist. There was



concern that the market's momenturn would falter in 1997 in reaction to factors such as a rise in US interest rates."

The surprise for the City was that the threat to the health of the UK's stock market came not from the US, which many pundits felt was overvalued, but from the Far East. Richard Crehan, head of UK strategy at SBC Warburg Dillon Read, said: "Most people started off 1997 with fairly sedate expectations, and many upgraded forecasts just before the problems in Asia. When we looked for trouble we looked st, to Wall Street."

At Merrill Lynch, the earliest estimates were for 4,350, upgraded to 5,000 in March. Two things have surprised us this year," said strong underlying factors. The high the generally positive tone of ana-Tim. Huddart, UK strategist. The level of liquidity in the market is a lysts for the year overall, the

absence of significant inflationary pressure and the strong bond

market, both of which have helped give equities room to appreciate in

ulian Buck, head of business development at Barclays Stockbrokers, feels his faith in the market's resilience has been borne out by events, having predicted and stuck to a year-end igure for the FTSE 100 index of

Analysts are now saying that in the wake of the initial shock administered by the Far Eastern markets, both New York and London have recovered their poise, and are being supported by some



Faces of 1997: Tony Blair arrives in Downing Street, left, Andrew Muir, above, tries to board Nationwide and a sea of red Tokyo



key feature that has helped the markets in 1997 and which will continue to have an impact next

As shown by the current run of cash takeover bids together with the number of share buy-backs underway or planned, the institutions are filling up their coffers. With few new share issues to absorb demand their spending power is expected to provide a continuing boost to equities.

The market is not strained at current levels, and is reasonably valued when you look at yields," said Mr McBain. NatWest Markets is looking for a 1998 year-end total of 5,700, and sticking to its forecast of 7,000 by 2000. In spite of horizon is not without clouds. Worries about economic slow-

down and the threat of recession are mooted by some as a possibility while the expectation of further interest rate rises in the UK and the impact of a rate increase in the US. also give pause for thought.

The market has got things to think about and in 1998 there is the potential for it to drop back 500-600 points," said Richard Jeffrey, group economist at Charterhouse. "But such losses could be regained and the market still end higher." Mr Huddart said further rises in

interest rates may be expected but "the market is looking beyond that, anticipating that rates will peak

There could be further reverberations from the problems in the Far groups, such as HSBC, with a clear exposure to these markets, there could be other UK companies squeezed by South Korean or other Asian groups cutting back on investment in the UK plants which has a knock-on effect on the local

The prophets of gloom forecast-ing a hard landing for the economy next year are painting an overly bleak picture, according to Mr Crehan of Warburgs, where a yearend total of 6,000 is pencilled in. He pointed to the flexibility of mone-tary policy that "will move rates down as much as up," combined with the impact next year of stronger growth in Europe and weaker sterling, that will help to

cushion the economy.

Matthew Orr, head of Killick & Co, the private client stockbroker, continues to be bullish on prospects having forecast 5,500 for the 1997 year end and now looking for 5,950 for the 1998 year end. It will be a liquidity-driven market and he expects interest rates to be coming down from the middle of the year.

inancial groups which led the market up for much of this year, are again favoured for growth by some analysts in 1998, though others, such as Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse,

take a more neutral view. The transport sector, in particular bus and train groups, is likely to move up a gear said Mr Huddart, as investors lose their fear of regulation". The sector could also be boosted by the Government's moves to encourage more use of public transport.

Support service groups are also tipped for growth in 1998, particular those, said Mr Orr, that are not vulnerable to changes in the economic climate but responding to bigger changes such as increased outsourcing of staff.

Utilities, already popular as a safe haven, also look promising. with water groups singled out. FTSE 250 companies look undervalued at current prices, said Richard Crehan at Warburgs. Against the background of a healthier housing market, house builders in the 250 listing could pick up together with retailers of household furnishings.

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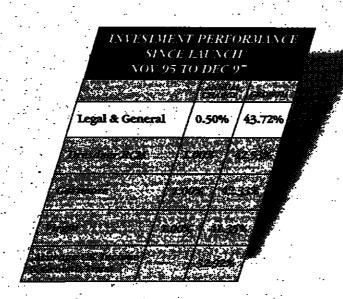
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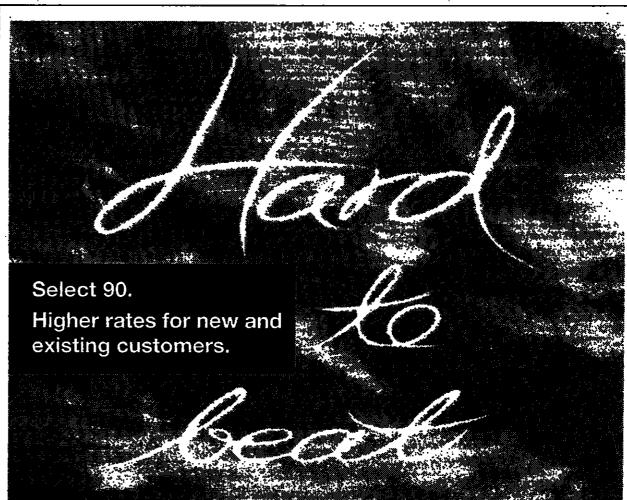
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## Full Steem ahead to Britex

ondon's Stock Exchange is no longer such a safe place for private investors to trade. That is not an outrageous scare. The exchange itself advises private investors in the top 100 stocks that caution is needed. They should not rely any more on the basic rule ohliging brokers to execute trades at the best price available. It is safer to put price limits on sales or purchases. especially if trading at quiet times near the start or end of the day's play. The inherently greater risk of rapid price variations in stock of smaller companies has spread to the big ones.

Officials should not be blamed for giving sensible advice. To be frank at the cost of losing face is a welcome virtue. But the problem behind this is sad and alarming. It will be solved only by slicing the exchange in two.

The culprit is the Exchange's switch to "Sets", a new push-button trading system. This advance might have used existing UK practice. Wholesale market-makers quote screen prices at which they will deal, although the system never quite worked as most deals are done at finer prices than those quoted. Instead, automated trading has been linked to a New York style order-book system. Buying and selling offers for FTSE 100 stocks posted on a computer are matched automatically. By cutting out middlemen who need a return on capital used to hold stock, this aimed to

cut the buy-sell spread for big investors. There is a price to pay for everything. Judging from the gyrations of New York's Dow Jones average during the trading day, order-book systems seem to be more volatile. But neither this, nor the inevitable teething troubles, fully explain the Exchange's embarrassment.

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London is operating two systems simultaneously. Sets was promoted by big foreign securities firms, abetted by officialdom. Most small brokers and many fund managers did not want it. And Sets cannot handle small orders economically. So market-makers continue to operate alongside Sets for the top 100, as well as all other stocks.

Less than half FTSE 100 trade goes through Sets, so liquidity in both elements of the market has shrunk. especially before big players digest their breakfast. In theory, small investors should be insulated. In practice, the lower limit for Sets varies widely from share to share and some brokers package small orders together to keep costs down. It have to check.

Sets is here to stay, if only because it fits international practice. It should work better, and really cut institutional investors' costs, if all their trade in FTSE 100 stocks is pushed through the system. That way, it would also be harder to fix the index, easing a key teething trouble. The Exchange is, however. in no position to insist. Many

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WHICH PEP?

domestic fund managers are appalled at the price distortions under Sets.

The bigger issue would remain. What happens to small investors' orders and what happens to trading in the vast majority of quoted national and smaller companies not covered by Sets?

The thinner the trade in a company's shares, the greater the advantage of having wholesalers to maintain a market. There is no case to extend Sets to the next 250 companies in the foreseeable future, let alone to all the others. Yet as remaining UK securities firms are sold to global houses, marketmaking capacity and expertise will

The answer must be two markets that operate and are governed separately. Institutional trading in FTSE 100 stocks and those at the fringe should be integrated with the London market in European, US and Asian stocks as a separate institution. perhaps called the Stock Exchange European Equities Market. "Steem" should throw open its board and make itself acceptable to users and banks as a genuine European market.

In parallel, we need to create a national market, perhaps called Britex, for shares in all the other companies that international investors have little interest in, plus AIM and private investors' dealings in Steem stocks. This market would depend on wholesale market-makers, so it had better be created fast before they all disappear for good. And Britex should guard against the weakness that has plagued the Stock Exchange for the past 20 years: it should be governed as much by investors as by professionals.

# Fundraiser applauds positive approach

promise not to deal with repressive regimes and arms companies, and its anti-factory farming and fox-hunting stance was not the only thing that persnaded James Jopling, 25, an Oxfam fundraiser, to switch his bank account from Bank of Scotland (Patrick Collinson writes).

Mr Jopling was impressed by the Co-op's proactive-lending policy, which seeks out businesses and organisations that promote fair trade and encourages borrowers to avoid damaging the environment.

"They weren't just negative, saying they would avoid things such as supporting the arms trade. They also want to do positive things to support the environment and local communities, and I like the fact that they say they won't speculate against the pound," he said.

Switching bank accounts and moving direct debits and standing orders can be problematic, but the transfer took about a month and went fairly smoothly. He joins the 500,000 new customers that Co-op has taken on in the past three years, bringing its total to two

ow green can your finances go? If you

plant-based credit card not

based on any fossil fuels,

Greenpeace can help out or

there's the Earth Saver account,

a joint venture between Friends

of the Earth and Triodos Bank.

It invests in sustainable energy

projects while giving competi-

tive interest of up to 6 per cent.

hard at the Kyoto UN confer-

ence on climatic change to force

the US to cut greenhouse gas

emissions. But they are enjoy-

ing more success in convincing

the public to think green with

its money. Green investing -

screening share investments to

eliminate companies such as

tobacco or arms firms - is big

industry. Ironically, its biggest

vironmental bogeyman, the

US. The US Social Investment

Forum estimates \$600 billion in

US investment portfolios is

The UK is fast catching up. In the 16 months from June 1996 to

October 1997, ethical funds un-

der management in UK unit trusts and investment trusts

jumped to £1.6 billion from £1.1

billion. The number of indepen-

dent financial advice firms

specialising in green invest-

ment advice is growing even

more rapidly - from 36 to near-

ly 70 over the past year. Green

savings accounts, Tessas, Peps.

unit trusts, investment trusts,

charity accounts, pensions and

credit cards are all available.

The new isa will also allow tax-

free investments in industrial

provident societies, which

specialise in ethical investing.

The burgeoning range — and creditable performance

"socially screened".

success has been in Kyoto's en-

Green campaigners fought



THE THIRD DISTURDED IN THE PARTY OF THE PART

Patriotic point: James Jopling liked the fact that the Co-op will not speculate against sterling

million and supporting its claim that it is one of the fastest growing UK banks.

Mr Jopling says he is not too bothered if Co-op is not ethically pure in everything it does. "If you stick your head above the parapet you're bound to have shots publicity to campaigns such

taken at you. But you have to take little steps forward to help move everybody along." He believes that by taking an ethical stance and giving

as that opposing child lab-

our, Co-op will lead other banks and financial organis-

ations to take a more ethical position. Mr Jopling first became aware of the Co-op's ethical stance when he took out an Oxfam Visa card. which the Co-op administers. Transactions on Oxfam Visa cards have raised £150,000 for the charity. prin W

# How green is your wallet?

#### Going ethical need not cut your returns

Unit and investment trusts, the most advanced part of the green investing industry, offer 32 funds from 20 providers.

Like all unit trusts, perfor-mance has varied widely, but the average return has been similar to the average unit trust. In other words, going ethical has not meant poorer returns for investors.

The funds are biased towards smaller companies, and as they are largely invested in the UK, they qualify for tax-free Pep investment. Ethical funds fall into two groups: those that avoid non-ethical investments, and those that proactively invest in environment-enhancing companies.

#### TOP TRUSTS

Three-Year Return

Framlington Health 121.9% Credit Suisse Fel'ship 68.2% Sovereign Ethical TSB Environmental Friends Prov Stew'ship 49.0%

#### CONTACTS

Ethical Investment Research Service: 0171 735 1351 Ethical Investors Group (01242 604550) Meehan (0117 Holden

#### Patrick Collinson looks at good

homes for ethical investors' funds

record — has encouraged a new breed of ethical investor, dubbed "light green" by the industry. Giles Chitting, a consultant at Holden Meehan, a Bristol ethical adviser, said: We get a few green fundamentalists" but most people who come to us say they want a decent return but will not compromise on key values. They know they are going from a state of no grace to some grace and there will always be a gap between what they can achieve and the ideal." So whether you are light or dark green, what

#### SAVINGS

are your ethical options?

For "light greens" there is the Co-operative Bank, Ecology **Building Society and Triodos** Bank. The Co-op, the biggest "green" bank with two million customers, promises not to invest in or supply financial services to repressive regimes, tobacco manufacturers or businesses involved in the fur trade. field sports and animal experi-

mentation for cosmetics. The Ecology Building Society specialises in lending depositors' money to socially responsible housing projects, often to borrowers other societies would refuse. Triodos Bank is a Dutch ethical bank with a £200 million asset base that set up in the UK in 1995 and invests in projects to add social or environmental value.

For the committed "dark

green" saver, there are ac-

counts which pay only the rate of inflation, and pass on profits to worthy causes. Triodos Bank offers specialist accounts where money raised is invested in target communities, such as the Earth Saver, Organic Saver, North-South Plan and Just Housing. Other organisations, such as Shared Interest and Radical Roots take in money to lend for local regeneration projects. They can be contacted via the Social Investment Forum on 0171 737 1004.

#### **TESSAS**

The Co-operative Bank offers a Tessa at 7 per cent. Ecology Building Society at 6.25 per cent and Triodos at 7.25 per cent. Lee Coates, director of Ethical Investors Group, said: "Green investors should avoid high street banks for Tessas or savings accounts. Building so-cieties are mutual and do not lend to companies or Governments so are ethically neutral compared to the big banks."

For the light green saver, the minimum for an ethical fund is screening to avoid investing in armaments, tobacco and alcohol firms. This includes the top-performing Credit Suisse Fellowship trust. Framlington Health is not typical of other ethical funds because it invests only in healthcare businesses but avoids pharmaceutical groups that test non-medical

products on animals. True "dark green" investors seek pro-active funds with

green investments as well as screening out unethical companies. These include Friends Provident Stewardship, NPI Global Care and Jupiter Ecology. Each of the three groups win plaudits from ethical advisers for the quality of their ethical research and for "squeaky-dean" investments.

#### PENSIONS

Green pension options depend on whether you have a personal or occupational plan. Occupational scheme rules restrict trustees from using ethical criteria as an investment basis. Some local authority occupational pension schemes are challenging this, with a group of London local authorities placing I per cent of their assets into small local firms.

Personal pension holders have much greater freedom to invest ethically. Friends Provident, NPI, Scottish Equitable. Clerical Medical and Skandia all offer ethical funds within their pension range. The issue for the light green investor is investment risk — do you want all your pension money in just one UK-based ethical fund? Many advisers will recommend that you mix an ethical fund with a with-profits fund that invests across a broad range of investments.

#### CHARITIES

Charities cannot invest ethically for similar reasons to occupational pension schemes but can modify investments if they conflict with the charity's objectives. So a cancer charity can stop its funds going into

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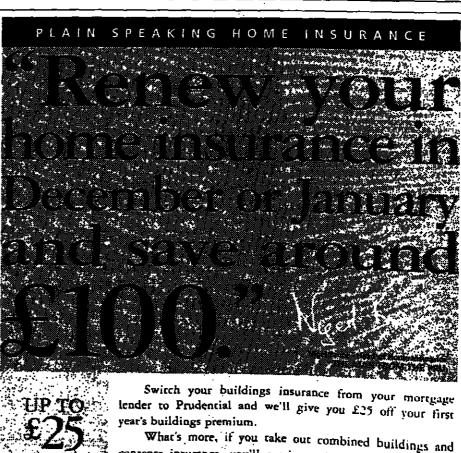
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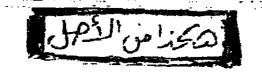
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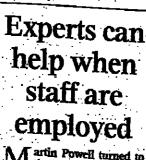
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Martin Powell turned to the experts for advice when his business needed to employ staff for the first time (John Givens writes).

Mr Powell, 39, who runs The Wordsmiths Press, a publishing and public rela-tions company in Bristol, and fellow director Louise Clements, 48, decided the responsibility of being an employer warranted calling in specialists. The pair asked a solicitor to

put together a contract of employment for Sarah Benefield, pictured right with Mr Powell, when the 23-year-old joined the company as an account manager two years ago and also asked their accountant to deal with her salary and deductions.

Mr Powell, a former ne editor of the Bristol Evening Post says they called in the experts because they took their responsibilities as employers seriously and also wanted to make sure the company was protected

"Apart from wanting to do things properly for Sarah as our first employee we also wanted to make sure the company was protected against losing clients if she ever moved on.

Going through the process and getting our accountant to deal with the salary side of things was very worthwhile and has been useful since as we have grown and taken on



# Funding a final fling

ish new year tradifighting through the Janu ary sales and eating cold turkey, is to visit the travel agent to book a summer holiday.

No sooner has pre-Christmas advertising for power drills and compilation CDs ended than it is followed by the tour operators with their television onslaught, usually backed by discounts and special

There is a section of the British population, how-ever, that misses all this because it is already abroad, enjoying winter sunshine in Spain, Portu-gal, Asia and the Caribbean. Most of these holidaymakers are retired and escape to the milder climes during the British winter months

Those left behind may soon have the opportunity to join them, thanks to a scheme known as the shared appreciation mortgage. This allows elderly people to realise much of the equity in their home and, if they so wish, go on a spending spree. A cheaper and simpler

way of releasing equity from your home is to sell the family house and move to a bungalow. That way you are under no obligation to your lender and you have the comfort of a lump sum in the bank.

Many older people, though, are reluctant to do this because they do not



COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY Personal Finance Deputy Editor

want the distress of moving away from friends and the pain of selling off furniture and belongings built up over many years. In a shared appreciation mortgage, the lender gives a loan or a lump sum in return for a proportion of any rise in the value of the home until death.

It is more of a gamble for the home-owner than the lender, as once it is taken out, it is difficult to move and expensive to buy out of the arrangement.

The lender takes the risk that the property market may collapse and it will make no money. However, lenders have a vested inter-est in offering these prod-ucts only in areas where house prices are buoyant, or likely to recover quickly.

The new-style mortgage appears to be an improvement on the home income plan, widely sold in the 1980s, which involved a borrower taking out a mortgage and putting the proceeds into bonds.

The bond income was supposed to pay both the mortgage and supplement a pension, but as interest rates rose and house prices fell debts mounted up and some pensioners became

#### Hard sell

THE investment industry has been eloquent in its indignation at the £50,000 lifetime contributions limit for the Individual Savings Account. It objects to

punishing thrift.

It has been less vocal about the need for a thorough review of the charges that financial services providers — and in particular life offices — will make for the new Isa. Those who took out personal pensions with high fees in the 1980s know through bitter experience charges can wipe out the tax relief.

The 350,000 to 750,000 people with more than £50,000 already invested will be financially astute enough to minimise their exposure to tax well before 1999. The real debate now should be over how to stop the remaining 5.6 million potential Isa holders, many of whom are not financially sophisticated, from being sold uncompet-

# Duties of the job provider

Taking on staff for the first time involves more than just choosing a person and agreeing a salary and a start date, because there are numerous responsibilities that an employer has to shoulder.

The law says that all employees should have basic rights and protectionwhen in someone's employment, no matter how small the company is, and failure to play to the rules could get you in real trouble.

So, before you rush off and start building your business empire by recruiting staff, make sure you understand the extra work and responsibility that entails. They come on board at the same time as the employee.

#### ■ Contract of employment

sarily be in written form, as the law provides basic rights to workers.

However, if you do employ someone for more than one month you must supply them within two months of beginning the employment with a statement of the main terms of the contract.

This will typically include basics like the employee's name, job title and when the employment started, as well as more detailed information like the rate of pay and how often it is paid, working hours, arrangements for overtime payments, details of holiday entitlement, the notice period which must be given if the employment is to be ended and the disciplinary

procedures. The remuneration package is between you, as the employer, and the staff member and although there is no minimum wage in the UK at the moment, if you are paying a very low rate to a worker you might find the Low Pay Unit on your back.

Also, men and women must get the same rate of pay for doing the same kind of work and for work of equal

#### Equal opportunities

It is illegal to refuse employment to a

John Givens concludes his two-part report

on points to consider when employing staff

# PERSONNEL 2

person because of colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, marital status or sexual orientation, except in exceptional circumstances, so you must quality for the benefit. Employees are protected by a contract in make sure any opportunities you have ability and experience to do the job.

#### Tax and National Insurance

As an employer you are responsible for deducting tax and National Insurance payments from the money you pay your staff and passing the lunds on to the tax office.

You must also provide each worker with a pay slip, showing the income tax and NI deductions as well as a running total on how much each person has paid during the tax year, which runs from April 6 to April 5 the following

#### ■ Sickness pay

Your workers are entitled to be paid if they are absent from work through illness. It might be that you decide to implement your own sick pay scheme where, for example, you agree to pay an employee full salary for a certain amount of time while they are away

However, even if you do not pay staff who are off sick, you will still be responsible for administering their Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) entitlement. Everyone who is too ill to work for more than four consecutive days can

maximum of 28 weeks, assuming they have paid enough tax and National Insurance contributions in the past to

> . As the employer you pay the money from the Department of Social

#### ■ Maternity leave and pay

If a member of staff becomes pregnant while in your employment she might be entitled to claim maternity pay and leave, as well as having her job protected so she can return to work after the baby has been born.

No matter how short a time an employee has been working for you, she will be able to take a minimum of 14 weeks maternity leave. Women who have worked for your company for more than six months can claim 18 weeks maternity leave.

Unlike Statutory Sick Pay, maternity pay must be covered by the employer, with the first six weeks being paid at a rate of 90 per cent of normal earnings and the rest at least at the same rate as SSP, currently £55.70 a week.

Expectant mothers who have been in your employment for more than two years can claim additional unpaid maternity absence, as long as the total amount of time taken does not exceed 40 weeks, with a maximum of 11 weeks being taken before the expected birth

When the mother returns to work claim SSP of up to £55.70 a week for a she has the right to continue her

employment in the same position and with the same terms and conditions of employment as she had before going off to have a haby.

#### ■ Disciplinary procedures

The employer should set out in the contract or statement of employment what will happen if it becomes necessary to discipline a member of staff.

Unless it is a serious offence, like fighting, or a major breach of safety or security where the employer may be entitled to sack a worker on the spot, it is usual for an employer to introduce a series of warnings that will eventually lead to dismissal if the employee fails to put right a problem.

Everyone you employ has the right to belong to a union and the right not to be refused employment because they are a member of a union, or refuse to

#### Employer's liability insurance

By law you must have liability insurance if you employ staff, even if it is just one person.

This policy covers the employees against accident in the place of work and the cost of the annual premium depends on the type of business you are running and the potential risks to staff.

#### Health and safety regulations

The regulations say that the employer must provide a safe environment for

staff to work in. The rules governing the UK's stringent health and safety requirements are long and complex and failure to comply could see your business shut down for a period of time until you put right a problem identified by a health and safety officer.

Most health and safety problems, such as telephone wires lying across the floor where they could trip people up, can be easily resolved, while others, like a building being declared unsafe, are harder to put right.

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### THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE NATIONAL SAVINGS

## Trust sector gift for the fanatic

new book. Put Not made in the UK at five major Your Trust in Money. retailers: BP. Interflora, Index could make an ideal Christmas present for an investment fanatic. The book tells the story of the UK investment trust sector from its first day in March 1868 through to the multibillionpound industry of today. Available from the Association of Investment Trust Companies, priced at £25 (plus £10 p&p). Call 0171-431 5222 to place an order. A credit card in aid of The

Haven Trust, the breast cancer charity, has been launched in conjunction with the Bank of Scotland. Money will be donated with every transac-tion, at no additional cost to the cardholder. The Haven Trust MasterCard has an APR of 19.9 per cent (21.8 per cent for cash advances). The annual fee for the first year is being waived. For an applica-tion form, call 0800 716097 and quote ref 007G.

■ Alliance & Leicester's money-back credit card, which was launched in March this year, is offering cardholders an incentive to increase their credit card spending. A&L will give double money back on purchases

and Index Extra Ticketmaster and ATS, from February I, 1998. Double money back is 1 per cent on all purchases up to £3,000 per annum and 2 per cent on all purchases over £3,000 pa. The normal money back rates are 0.5 per cent and I per cent. For those who pay monthly interest on their credit card, the A&L will also be paying back 5 per cent of all interest payments as a money back benefit from February I 1998. Features of the card such as the APR of 17.9 per cent and no annual fee remain the same. For more details, call 0500 838383.

Now is an opportune moment to buy property at a com-petitive price with a view to renting in the high season of February, when demand for rental accommodation increases, according to Ludlow Thompson, the estate agent, A guide has been produced which covers all stages of investing in residential property from acquisition and financing to letting and manage ment. Free copies are available from Ludlow Thompson. Freepost. London El SBR.

5	AVERS' BES	ST BÜYS			
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Woolwich 0800 222200 C&G 0800 742437 Legal & General Bank 0500 111200 Alliance & Leic 0845 608 8860	Card Saver Inst Transfer Direct Access First Cls Inst	instant InstantB Postal Postal	£50 £1,000 £2,500 £10,000	7.00 7.25 7.15 7.50	Yy Yy Yy Yy
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Bristol & West 0800 202121 Northern Rock 0500 505000 Bristol & West 0800 202121 Investec Bank (UK) 0171 2031650	Postal 30 Select 90 Fix for Six Base Plus	30 day p 90 day p 6 month 1 year	£10,000 £10,000 £5,000 £2,001	7.80 7.90 7.75 8.00	Yiy Yiy F/OM OM
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Natice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505 Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650 Mansfield BS 01246 202055 Readford & Bingley BS 01274 555332	Premier+feeder	5 year 5 year 5 year 5 year	£3,000 £9,000 £500 £1,000	7.85 7.85 7.75 7.75	Yly Yly Yly Yly

Mansfield BS 01246 202055 Bradford & Bingley BS 01274 555332		5 year	£500 7.7 1,000 7.7	5 Yiy
VSA CRED	T CARDS B	EST BUYS		
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000 Co-operative Bank 0800 109000 Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829100	Visa Advantage Visa MasterCard/Vis		7.90%N 7.90%N 14.00%	Nil Nil £12

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance no insurance PERSONAL LOANS Direct Line 0181 680 9966 Capital One Direct 0800 216252 £183.75 £189.48 £166.38 12.80%A £168,54 £167,56 12.90% Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262 £187.73

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

\* PATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

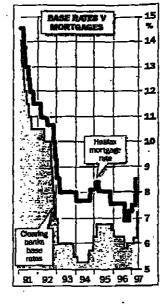
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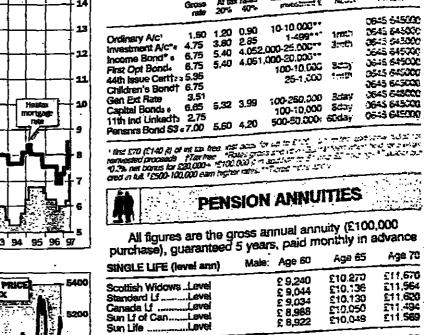
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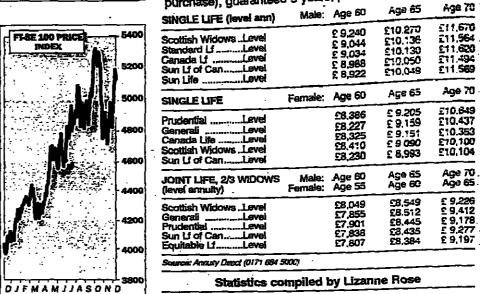
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7.650	100.13	10,000	0800 291291					01635 43676				1 year
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Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	1,20	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% dsc-6 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.99	£15-100k	95	7.45% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
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Mansfield 01246 202055	1.35	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 min Further dsc apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
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**GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS** 

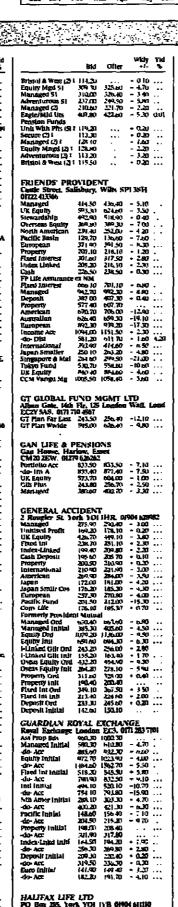
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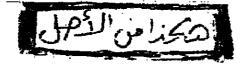
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200   200	Penas Cash Cay   219.45   221.91   0.13   0.15   0.16
200   200   217.70   0.10	Penas Cash Cay   219.45   221.91   0.13   0.15   0.16
200   200   217.70   0.10	Penas Cash Cay   219.45   221.01   0.13   0.10   0.10   0.15   0.16
20   10   20   21   70   0.10   10   10   10   10   10   10	Penas Cash Cap 219.45   221.01   0.13     40 Cash Cap   37.12   775.79   0.45     40 Cash Cap   1942.56   306.102   15 66     40 Equity Cap   1942.56   306.102   15 66     40 Equity Im   226.56   306.002   15 66     40 Equity Im   226.56   306.002   15 66     40 Equity Im   226.56   306.002   25 66     40 Equity Im   226.56   306.002   228     40 Equity 10   200.002   200.002   200.002     40 Equity 10   200.002   200.002   200.002     40 Equity 10
No. Initials   No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No.	Penas Cash Cay   219.45   221.01   0.13   0.10   0.10   0.15   0.16
No. Initials   No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No.	Penas Cash Cay   219.45   221.91   0.13   0.15   0.16
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No. Initials   No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No.	Penas Cash Cap   219.45   221.91   0.13   0.14   0.15
No. Initials   No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No.	Penas Cash Cap   219.45   221.91   0.13   0.14   0.15
No. Initials   No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No.	Prints   Cash Cay   219.45   221.91   0.13   0.15   0.16
20   20   20   217.70   0.10	Prints: Cash Cap   219.45   221.91   0.13   0.14   0.15
100   100	Prints: Cash Cap   219.45   221.91   0.13   0.14   0.15
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# Small investors shrug off crisis

n recent weeks headlines have contained very few good tidings for investors, with news of Far Eastern currency crises, potential global deflation and imminent market slumps. If plunging indices have managed to send shudders through huge multibillion-pound investment funds, then surely any gains made by small investors over the year must have been wiped out

Matichal Cavillies

FERSION ANNUALS

SPANUE BUYERS

by the recent turmoil?

The experience of two investment clubs would indicate otherwise. After the worldwide market turbulence in the autumn, The Times returned to the Victoria Investment Club in Truro, Cornwall, and the Maydown Mergers Investment Club in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, to find that the big picture is not necessarily replicated in miniature. Victoria Club chairman Derek Richards explains: "When one part of the world catches a cold it seems that all the major indices are marked down in the rest of the world. However, there is no immediate effect on smaller companies as you do not get the automatic writedown. Their share prices are far more affected by underlying performance rather than external global economic factors."

At one point last month the FTSE 100 index, which measures the perfMatthew Wall reports on progress at the

investment clubs Weekend Money follows

ormance of the largest UK companies, was down 432 points. Derek Richards assessed the club's portfolio of 13 stocks, made up predominantly of smaller, reputedly higher-risk companies. The prices of 11 stocks had not moved, one was up

3½p and another 6½p.
Since we last visited Victoria Investment Club, there has been a moderate shuffling of the portfolio. which stands at £26,000, representing a notional profit of more than £5,000. The fund is divided into units, with members owning units in proportion to the size of their investment. The unit value is 1.62 compared with 0.82 two years ago.

Greenwich Resources, the mining company, was heaved over-board in October after eight years of underperformance. The stock had been retained as a warning that buying shares without re-search is a fool's game. Luckily this worst performing stock had been their smallest investment, with a loss of £354 on an initial investment of £498. The sale of Graseby, on the other hand, gave rise to a £417

profit. Other potential candidates for the chop are Television Corporation and Gowrings, since both companies are showing a loss and show no immediate signs of a reversal in fortune. Recent purchases include Taylor Nelson, the market research company. The club was impressed by its investment in developing economies, such as the Czech Republic, and its lack of debt and strong cash-flow. The financial soundness of the company especially pleased the club's banking members, who have a hatred of debt.

nother recent purchase is isotron, a healthcare tech-Anology company bought in Seotember. After an immediate drop in share price the stuck is showing a modest profit. The star performer continues to be Robert Walters, the recruitment consultancy specialising in the computer industry. In October the stock was showing a profit of more than £1,400. That has leapt to more than



Derek Richards and other club members continue to believe that looking for directors buying shares in their own companies is a good way of selecting potential stocks worthy of closer inspection. The club also sticks to its "small is beautiful" philosophy, believing that companies with market capitalisations of £100 million or less are not necessarily riskier than blue-chip stocks, so long as you do your homework before buying.

The Maydown Mergers invest-

هكذامن رلامل

ment Club, whose 19 members all work for DuPont, the chemicals company, has had a rougher ride during the recent market turbulence. Five of the 12 stocks in their technology-orientated portfolio are showing a loss. But overall, thanks largely to a strong performance from Mayflower, the Midlands engineering company, the club is showing a notional profit of nearly 5700. The current value of the

portfolio is nearly £14,000. In spite of operating a stop-loss system, where shares would nor-mally be sold if they fell below by a certain percentage, the club did not panic when the market fell, but realised that a fundamental belief in the companies invested in had to be backed up with long-term loyal-Recent purchases include Galen Holdings, the drug manufacturer and pharmacy business based in Northern Ireland. The company went for a listing on the stock exchange in summer and has not disappointed its investors. Another

Northern Irish company, Powerscreen, continues to perform well.
Club chairman Mike Carroll says: "We feel we've scored with local companies. We've seen record profits announced only to be ignored by the London-based media. Often local news gets passed over by the big City wheeler-dealers and that leaves room for us to move in. You can't beat information from local people who work at the companies you're thinking of in-

# A tax-free place in the sun

Susan Emmett

looks at the

best way to save

tax if you quit

these shores in damp December

old weather, bouts of flu and long dark nights are all good reasons to leave these shores during the winter. But the prospect of warmer weather is not the only benefit for workers who plan a temporary exit. Expats have a lot more flexibility in their investment strategies than their UK counterparts if they make sound

financial arrangements. For those planning to work abroad in the new year, parking your money offshore greet you on your return. The strong pound may mean that the value of the money you send home is less than you could wish but even if your new salary matches your UK earnings, you may be able to stow away what would other-

wise have gone to the taxman. Anyone who works outside the UK for more than 365 days will not normally pay UK income tax provided they do not spend more than a sixth of



Thoughts of a tropical beach in mid-winter turn many a mind towards sunnier climes

the time they are working abroad in this country. This works out at 62 days a year. As with any investment,

might be a good way to ensure deciding where to place your tude towards risk. But if you are moving abroad, there are other considerations to make when choosing a suitable vehicle. Distance and a difference in time zones may make it hard to keep track of investments. James Higgins, a financial adviser at Chamberlain de Broe, says there are only two real choices - equities or deposits. "Choosing the right one depends on your attitude towards risk." If risk

is to be avoided at all costs, then anything equity- linked can be ignored. The next step would be comparing bank rates. Mr Higgins said offcounts can offer attractive gross rates.

However, if income tax in your future home country is going to be a problem, a number of Jersey-based institutions such as Rothschild Asset Management and Guirmess Flight Fund offer "accumulator funds". These are straightforward deposit funds in which investors buy shares. Interest is added to the price of the share. Rothschild

pay 6.43 per cent a year and Guinness 6.84 per cent. But unlike conventional deposits, investors can defer tax until until the funds are cashed in growth of each unit. The amount of tax paid is determined by the new country of residence.

For those ready to make a longer term investment and prepared to take on a bit more risk by tying their money into equities, guaranteed trackers might be appropriate. Over the last couple of years indextrackers have become very popular and a few even offer basic guarantees. Tracker

funds are designed to repro duce the return you would receive if you had shares in all the companies in the FTSE 100 or a similar index.

Mr Higgins suggests AJB Govett's safeguard fund which is available in offshore as well as onshore versions. If the market should tumble, the index-tracker can fall a maximum of 2 per cent. If the index rises, the tracker should follow it up. For someone going abroad for five years and just wanting to leave an invest-ment behind, it has the advantage of simplicity.

There is no need to be in constant contact with a fund manager and keeping track of what the markets are doing back home. However, it is worth bearing in mind that they may not perform as well

as a managed fund.

For bolder investors, Mr Higgins generally favours investment trusts. Those investing over a five-year period or ly spread general funds such as Personal Assets, Fleming Claverhouse, City of London and Alliance Trusts.

For guidance on establishing your new tax status, the Inland Revenue has a 60page leaflet (IR20) with all the rules on leaving and returning to the UK. It is available from your local tax office or from the Revenue on

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#### From acres to shares — what the experts give

Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere, claims that his 18-month-old son George suffers the same treatment as cobblers' child-ren. Their father lets them go unshod, and I haven't

sorted out any investments for George yet," he says. So far Mr Hooper has opened a Smart-2-Save account with the Nationwide as a short-term home for any money given to George. However, this Christmas Mr Hooper and his wife Pip intend to give George the five-acre paddock attached to the family home near Bath. The paddock is let to a Bath. The paouvo.

farmer for sheep grazing.

said: The

Mr Hooper said: oaddock earns about £500 in rent a year, which can be invested for George. It makes good sense because it will make use of his personal tax allowances, and he is very fond of the sheep."

Douglas Gardner of Thomson, has never given financial presents to his two sons, Daniel and Lewis. But he has set up two trusts for each boy to provide money for educational fees.

Michael MacDougall has also avoided financial presents for birthdays and Christmas. However, for his son Robert's twenty-first birthday Mr MacDougall gave him shares in Inn Business, which owns 514 pubs and restaurants. He aid: "He was very interested because I gave him a list of all the pubs. I hope to join him in testing them out."

Jill Insley concludes our two-part series on investing for children

# Quick presents that will last for years

Teletubby dolls might thrill toddlers on Christmas Day, but you can be sure that their allure will prove short-lived. A financial present will offer longer last-ing satisfaction, need not be dull, and best of all (for the parent at least!), does not involve hours of tramping

round the shops.

Cash is by far the most popular financial offering as far as children are concerned, but if you want your gift to last beyond Boxing Day, it is probably best to give money that is already invested.

Friendly society bonds: Although children are not eligible for personal equity plans (Peps) or tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), they benefit from several tax perks that enable them to be tax efficient savers from birth.

Douglas Gardner of Thorn-

son's Financial Planning, a Leeds independent financial friendly society bonds to people who want to save on behalf of children. These are tax-free savings schemes, which can accept premiums of up to £25 a month or an annual lump sum of £270. (Some friendly societies accept higher premiums, but the extra sums are invested in a fund where capital gains and dividends are taxed).

While the tax-free investment limits are low and the products are often criticised for having comparatively high charges, bonds can produce invested for long enough. Someone who invested £100 every Christmas for the last

ten years in a Tunbridge Wells Baby Bond (using the TW with-profits fund) could now be watching their child decide how to spend £1,830 of tax-free To\_qualify for the tax-free

benefits, premiums must be left invested in the friendly society's tax exempt investment fund for ten years or three quarters of the bond's original term. A bond which is encashed earlier than this becomes liable for tax. Children's bonds are written in the name of the child, but can be held in trust by the person contributing the premiums

eight working days' notice is

names, the Inland Revenue

limits the amount of tax-free

income that can be earned on parental gifts to £100. As soon

as that limit is exceeded, the

whole lot is taxed at the

parent's marginal rate of tax.

one else only incur tax on

income above £4,045. Income

tax at the composite rate of 20

per cent is normally deducted

at source from bank accounts.

But children can apply to have

their interest paid gross by

filling in the Inland Revenue

form - IR85 (the bank or

building society should pro-

Building societies tend to

pay better rates of interest than banks. Nationwide

Building Society's Smart-2-Save account for children up to

the age of II. and its Smart

accounts for children aged 12

to 17, pays 7.2 per cent gross on

sums of £1 or more. Britannia

**Building Society's FirstSaver** 

account, for children up to the

age of 18, pays 7 per cent gross

on a minimum deposit of £1.

paid is probably of little conse-

quence given that many chil-

However, the rate of interest

vide this

Investments given by any-

Savings accounts older children may prefer to have their own bank or building society account. Provided the society has a local branch, the child will get used to paying in pocket money and cash presents, and will be able to check the progress of his or her

These can also pay gross interest provided the child is a non-tax payer. Children are entitled to their own personal tax allowances, which means they can earn capital gains of £6,500 during the current tax year without paying any tax. The treatment of income is slightly more complicated. To

with their accounts. The Bank of Scotland Supersaver account, for children up to the age of 12 comes with an organiser and calculator. magazine, piggybank, squirrel or backpack.

The Halifax Little Xtra Club provides a moneybox, bike sticker and badge, magazine, and birthday and Christmas cards. Teenagers might prefer the cinema tickets and voucher book that come with Midland Bank's LIVE!Cash account for children aged II to 15.

Equity-based investments:

Parents and grandparents who want to provide real growth potential should consider unit and investment trusts, or even shares.

Mr Hooper says that young investors are ideally suited to investing in equity-based funds: If you are nought years old, you should be 100 per cent invested in equities. Even if the market falls, it is bound to have improved by

the time you are 18! he says. On that basis, Mr Hooper recommends a wide range of unit trusts, from United Kingdom blue-chip funds for more conservative babies, to emerging markets funds for those who appreciate a roller-coaster ride. Michael MacDougall, head of private clients at Waters Lunniss, the East Anglian broker, recommends investment trusts with a wide geographical spread such as RIT Capital Partners or Henderson Technology.

RIT Capital Partners has a good performance record. coming third in the International Growth sector over three years and second over five years. Henderson Technology has been running for less than a year, but offers the advantage of appealing to little

Both trusts are selling at substantial discounts to their net asset value - 16.7 per cent for RIT Capital Partners, and 12.3 per cent for Henderson technology - enabling investors to buy more assets for their money.

This means that the share price is currently lower than the underlying value of the trust, which advisers often regard as an opportunity to

Mr MacDougall says it is difficult to provide a sensible spread when investing directly in shares. A parent or grandparent may therefore be disappointed with the returns their produces for their

offspring.
However, a Manchester
Hotsour United or Tottenham Hotspur fan is likely to be delighted at finding a share certificate from his favourite club in his Christmas stocking -- and may well benefit from some capital

#### If you are aged nought, you should be 100 per cent invested in equities

prevent parents avoiding tax maturity. by putting their own investments in their children's

■ National Savings Children's Bonds: these also provide tax-free returns, but Graham Hooper of Chase de independent financial adviser, is not impressed by the bonds' current yield: "Historically they have been a "must-buy" for children, but with the interest rate at 6.75 per cent gross, they are paying only slightly more than building society accounts," he said.

The rate is actually fixed at 5 per cent gross a year, plus a bonus of liper cent on the bond's fifth anniversary. Money can be withdrawn earlier, but no interest is paid if the bonds are redeemed in the first year. Between £25 and £1,000 can be invested in Children's Bonds for children under the age of 16.

Premium Bonds: these offer a slightly more exciting alternative for children who like the idea of betting. Ernie, the computer that sorts out winning bond numbers, pays out about 500,000 tax-free cash prizes every month, including a jackpot of £1 million. Minimum investment is £100. and bonds must be held for one month to be eligible for

dren's accounts will only hold prizes. They can be encashed small amounts. Most children Cashing in your Endowment Policy?

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# Fresh cheer in Isa proposal

Like many homeowners who have been using Peps to pay off interest-only mortgages, Margaret Lawlor was pleased to hear the Government was reconsidering its proposal to limit contributions into individual savings accounts (Isa) to £50,000 when they are introduced in 1990

The 36-year old marketing executive is getting married in February and hopes to buy a larger home in south London with her fiance, Russell Williams, who is a sales manager. The ceiling on contributions would make Isas unsuitable as the sole vehicle for repaying mortgages over £240,000.

Ms Lawlor said: The £50,000 limit is not a lot for your lifetime's savings and is unfair if you want to use the ISA to pay off a mortgage, particularly if you live in

W W gage? You will have no difficulty meeting the mon-

■ JOB STABILITY: This is

key. Most mainstream lenders

are looking for evidence that

you are not in the habit of

jumping from job to job. At

Woolwich, for example, you

normally have to have been in

your current job for at least six

months. If you have changed

jobs recently, you will have to

have been with your previous

employer for 18 months. Oth-

ers have similar rules. The

Nationwide and Halifax both

like borrowers to be in the

■ INCOME EVIDENCE:

You will have to produce at

least three months' salary slips

or bank statements showing

your salary. Such require-

same job for 12 months.

is mari



# Safer lifestyles win out hy have you just been refused a mort-

Sara McConnell and Marianne Curphey report on

the factors that determine mortgage applications

thly repayments, you have a decent income and the property you want to buy is sound. ments obviously cause prob-lems for the self-employed which is why lenders have Unfortunately this is not enough, say lenders. They are looking for evidence that you not only can pay but will pay. John Harper, lending policy manager at Bradford & Bingtraditionally been reluctant to lend to them. Many lenders, including the Abbey National, Woolwich, Bradford & Bingley and Birmingham Midshires ley, said lenders are now more interested in checking the normally demand to see three "covenant" of the borrower years' accounts. Perhaps surprisingly, the giant Halifax is more flexible. It says: "Ideally than they are in the property they are lending on. As soon as your mortgage application lands on the desk we'd like to see three years' accounts but we don't operate of the underwriter at head offin an ideal world."

ice, you can expect your financial affairs to be examined **■ DEPOSIT SIZE:** Most with a fine-toothed comb, and lenders no longer offer 100 per cent loans, having learnt a your job history and personal life to be carefully scrutinised. bitter lesson in the 1980s that The safer your lifestyle and house prices can go down as income are, the more likely it well as up. You will have to is that you will get your loan. raise at least 5 per cent of the So what will make or break property's price; demonstratyour mortgage application? This is what lenders will be ing that you have the will to save and build up a deposit.

> **■ CREDITWORTHINESS:** When you apply for a loan lenders immediately carry out a credit search. This shows what credit cards, loans and other debts you have and if you pay them off regularly. It will also reveal whether you are on the electoral roll and whether you live where you say you do. Using this and other information, such as the amount of your deposit, you will get a credit score on a scale of one to 12, says John Harper at the Bradford & Bingley. To score 12 you would have to have a deposit of 20 per cizit or more. You would be on the electoral roll, want to borrow less than the maximum allowed on your income,

and have savings or other accounts with the lender. You would have a good record of handling credit responsibly and would have been a borrower previously.

HOW CREDIT SCOR-

ING WORKS: Each lender has its own system but the principles are the same. The more steady and traditional your lifestyle, and the bigger your deposit, the more kindly your application will be riewed. So, for example, a family man borrowing less than twice his annual salary will score more highly that a single man who has moved frequently within the last five years and who wants to borrow four and a half times his

Patrick Bunton of London & Country Mortgages said: "The lenders like families because the head of the household has responsibilities to dependants as well as to himself and defaulting on a mortgage would have serious consequences. If you are divorced, you will probably be classed as single for credit-scoring purliving together rather than married you will lose a couple of points. These credit scores are not

set in stone, and if you are turned down by one lender it is less strict approach."

worth ringing around to others, because they may have a Some lenders buy an off-theshelf credit scoring system and

then compare it with their own

system. This helps them to

change and develop their risk assessment models. The attitude they take to

prospective borrowers will depend on their existing client base and the geographical area in which they operate. Mr Bunton said: "Whenever a

borrower has defaulted or their home has been repossessed, the lender will go back to the credit scoring system and feed in the data again.

"The aim is to try to weed out people who might not keep up to date with payments and not take them on as borrowers. This is why you may be penalised by a credit scoring system if you fit the profile of a potential Aside from family stability, a

good job, and a reasonable posit, lenders will also want to check that you are on the electoral register. This is because they can use the voters' roll to find out if you have a poor credit record or have been to court and become credit blacklisted. If you are missing from this list you will probably be asked for proof of residence. If you have never owned

your own home before the from your current landlord. Your landlord will be asked whether you were a reliable tenant who paid the rent on time and adhered to the conditions of the contract.

Mr Bunton said: "Taken in isolation, the fact that you are single and a first-time buyer might not seem relevant, but each section of the credit scoring system contributes to

# home loan battle hots up

هكذا من رالإمل

are increasingly com-peting in what is the fastest growing area of the market - loans tailored to people working on freelance or on short-term contracts. Flexible mortgages make life easier for these people by allowing them to vary payments or even temporarily stop paying when times are lean. Borrowers can also pay off the loan early and save thousands of pounds in interest (Gavin Lumsden writes). The first sign of this competition will come in January when Mongage Trust, which pioneered the current account mortgage, the ultimate in flexible loans, strikes back at Virgin Direct which is open-

ing its own current account mortgage (the Virgin One account) to the general public. Until now Mortgage Trust's Current Account Mortgage (CAM) has only been made available to borrowers via brokers. However, the Epsom, Surrey, lender is launching its own direct marketing operation in Reigate with which it hopes to put Virgin in

Current account mortgages encourage borrowers to overpay, thus building up a re-serve from which they can withdraw cash from later.

Tony Ward, head of Mortgage Trust, expects one in ten borrowers will have some kind of flexible mortgage in five years, a market in which it wants a 20 per cent share.

**Trom January Mortgage** Trust is raising the amount that can be borrowed with CAM by raising the loan-to-value from 75 per cent to 90 per cent. It is also considering introducing a capped rate, a ceiling beyond which the CAM's variable rate could not rise. This is currently 8.4 per cent.

Big lenders are flocking to the banner of flexibility too. In the New Year Nationwide will dip its toe in the market when its branches will start to offer the Flexi-Mortgage, a loan which until now has only its subsidiaries, UCB Home

Flexi-Mortgage does not provide all the trimmings of a Virgin or Mortgage Trust account — there is no cheque book, for instance - but it does allow borrowers to vary or suspend their payments and make withdrawals of at least £2,000. Nationwide will charge a redemption fee if you repay the loan early.

## Flexible WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

### Punitive Isa proposals prompt fears for retirement income

From Mr Gordon Sives Sir, i have been a Tory all of my working life. However, I have to say that I have been very impressed with the Blair administration since it came to power earlier this year. Notwithstanding this comenders large and small ment, I do have cause for significant concern following coverage by the media of the Isa consultative document published on Tuesday, De-

cember 2. First of all I would like to mention that I spent an unbroken career of 37 years working in the Merchant Navy and latterly in the exploration arm of a multinational oil com-pany. At the age of 53 I was obliged to accept early retirement when the oil company for which I worked implemented a massive staffdownsizing programme. As a result of early retirement I was given an immediate but reduced occupational pension and, by way of compensation, a cash lump sum.

The consequence of receivng a reduced pension which had been built up over my working years is that I have invested the retirement lump sum in Tessas and Peps to supplement the reduced pension. Presumably a logical and thrifty move in providing sec-urity for the future although we are always reminded by investment managers of the risk that investments can fall as well as increase and that we may not get back the original sum invested. Fortunately, we have seen healthy increases in

recent years.
In this context I have no complaint with the way things turned out and I am totally self-sufficient and independent of any state handouts. I do, however, object most strongly to the punitive measures being projected and the restrictions on the amount which may be transferred into an Isa, thus having to pay income tax on the remaining investment income. This will directly affect my standard of living with the resulting loss of disposable income. During my working career I saved for the future in order to secure my standard of living. How-

ever, I now see under these

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proposals a falling standard which I find most disturbing. Like many others in a similar situation. I suspect this may well have a strong influence on voting preferences at the next general election. Yours faithfully. GORDON SIVES. Clovelly House, Great Canfield.

From Mr John Butcher Sir, In the Weekend Money section you invite reaction to the introduction of Isas and abandonment of Peps and

**D**иллоw,

I wish to complain in the strongest possible terms that this move represents retrospective taxation. People previously thought that they had two avenues for providing an income in retirement. Firstly, a pension scheme which offered tax relief on premium payments, but taxation of the income. Secondly Peps, which had to be funded out of income net of tax, but offered tax-free income. The second avenue was attractive because it offered more flexibility and one didn't sacrifice the capital sum

by annuity purchase. It is a complete breach of faith for a government now to change the rules in the way they have for accumulated sums over £50,000. How on earth do they expect people to plan their savings if there is no certainty that retrospective taxation of this sort will not occur!

Please use your best endeav-ours to get this unfair situation righted.

Yours faithfully. JOHN BUTCHER, 4 Park Lodge, 10 Meadowbank, SE3.

From Miss Joy Wingfield Sir, I am a regular reader of your Weekend Money fea-tures and believe I am fairly well informed on how best to maximise my current earning power and provide for my retirement, during which I expect virtually no help from the State.

At 50, I am possibly at the peak of my earning power and l was building up a reason-

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able sum for my "third age". created, of course, entirely out of savings from my already taxed income. The current proposals for Isas and a ceiling of £50,000 leave me open-mouthed.

I have no dependents and no relatives who are likely to look after me should I need it. I am a senior manager in a multinational company. which makes me social class B. I think. I have a professional qualification and have worked my butt off (and still do) to secure two post-graduate degrees and make myself a highly marketable

proposition. How dare Geoffrey Robinson (with an alleged £12 million off-shore trust) suggest that I am "undeserving" of any further incentives to save or indeed the prospect of taxfree growth of my existing savings. How much long-term care does he think £50,000 will buy in 2027, when I shall be

I shouldn't have to contem-plate off-shore" investment as described in your section. Why can't Britain recognise my thrift, hard work and selfsufficiency instead of suggest-ing that I should somehow feel guilty for trying to take control of my future and not be a burden on the public purse?

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ed enough.

I expect little notice to be taken of my views (single people are presumed to be failed families, I find), but I would be pleased to take part in the consultation process on lsas, if only to be able to articulate my apparent minority view.

Yours faithfully. JOY WINGFIELD. 37 Blandford Gardens, West Bridgford,

#### Paperwork for Pep investors From Mr L. Holden

Sir, I would have thought that Mr Philip Neaverson ("Less paper, we agree", Weekend Money Letters, November 8) should count himself lucky to receive a full account of his wife's Pep every six months. even though there is information contained therein which does not interest him.

In my case, I had three Peps whose half-yearly reports were excellent and very informative, but, since the takeover by Abbey Naional, the latter's reports are abysmal, amounting to a half page only of A4 paper and this supposedly covers all the three Peps. Oh to be with Bradford & Bingley! Yours faithfully, L. HOLDEN,

101 Bury New Road. Breightmet, Bolton.

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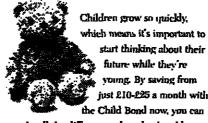
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**ISA HAPPIER NOW 63** 

Talk of government volte-face has given savers hope

# WEEKEND

**TOTS WITH LOTS 62** 

What financial advisers give at Christmas





### Isa ceilings — isn't that just the limit

The plans for the individ-ual savings account (Isa). the Government's replacement for personal equity plans (Peps) and tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), attracted further controversy this week as pressure mounted on the Government to increase the £50,000 contribution limit (Caroline Merrell and Mari-...nne Curphey write).

The Isa proposals, un-veiled last week, limit annual tax-free investment to £5,000 and life-time contributions to Isas to £50.000. Under the plans, those with Peps can only transfer funds to a maximum of £50,000 into the Isa. Anything over that amount will be subject to tax from October 1999. The £50,000 limit has attracted criticism from the industry and savers. Those affected claim that they are not rich, unlike Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillionaire Paymaster General who un-

those who now have more than £50,000 in Peps opted to put money in these schemes rather than investing in pen-sions — both offer similar tax breaks, but Peps are more accessible. For these people, the limit means a retrospective tax bill.

Tax experts also point out that capping at £50,000 may not save the Government tax relief in the long run. Those affected may instead choose to shelter their money within pensions such as additional voluntary contribution plans, or in personal pensions.

Many young people, like Kamal Patheja, left, a lawyer and mother of one, believe the Government is right to encourage saving for the future, but question the arbitrary choice of £50,000 as the contributions limit. "I feel the cap on the amount which can be paid into an Isa is rather unfair. In ten year's time a sum of £50,000 will be rela-tively modest," Mrs Patheja

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#### **BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 27-31**

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

# House prices near 1989 peal Caroline Merrell says the past year has seen real recovery

ising interest rates may have a limited effect on demand for homes next year and price increases are unlikely to be on the same scale as the huge leaps of the past 12 months. analysts predict. People with property, particularly in London and the South East, have this year experienced rises reminiscent of the 1980s loans that were greater than the value of their property. The Woolwich says only 300,000 now have negative boom. The average price of a house in the UK is now only a few hundred pounds off the peak of May 1989. Then, according to the Halifax, the UK's biggest lender, the average house cost £70,246, only £287 more

than the average today. The seven-and-a-half years since the top of the market were marked by one-year falls in prices of up to 8 per cent in 1992, after annual rises in the late 1080s of up to 25 per cent. The very bottom of the housing market

was reached in July 1995, when the average house was worth a little over £60.000 - 14 per cent below the 1989 peak. At one point, 1.8 million of the UK's ten million homeowners had

Since the bottom, house-price re-covery has shown many false dawns. Real recovery has only really been shown in the past year, with UK

prices rising by 6.1 per cent.

London has experienced the biggest increases: according to the Land Registry, prices in some boroughs such as Westminster and Islington have risen by up to 20 per cent over the past year. House prices in the capital have been buoyed up by pentup demand, shortages of supply and burgeoning City bonuses. Recovery in other parts of the country has been far less marked. In some areas, prices have even fallen slightly.

Will the recovery continue and be sustained? Nationwide this week slightly downgraded its house price forecast for 1998 to 7 per cent, from 12 per cent this year, while Halifax claims that house prices will rise by round 5 per cent next year, compared

with 6 per cent for this year. Halifax believes recent interest rate rises are beginning to have some impact on sentiment. It said: "The rise in house prices in November was

slightly larger than expected, but is unlikely to be sustained in coming months. The recent rises in interest rates and slower economic growth more generally in the UK in 1998 should ensure house price inflation of around 5 per cent in 1998."

ut, Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, takes the opposite view. He said: "House prices are going to go up by 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent next year. People are putting far too much emphasis on interest rate rises. The rates are not that high. There has never been a case where a housing boom has been stopped by rising interest rates. It is

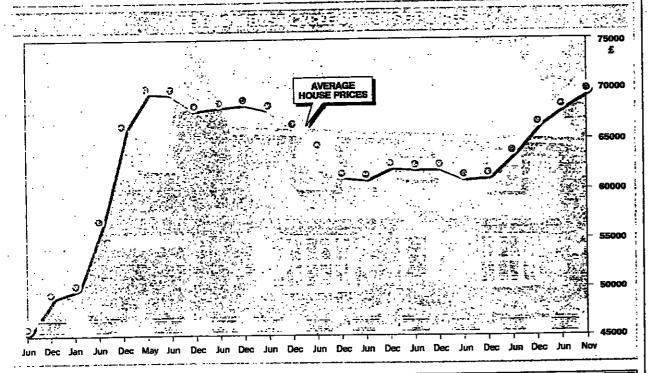
true that interest rates are going up. However there are a lot of low fixed

rates around."
In 1989, at the height of the housing boom, interest rates were at 13.5 per cent. The monthly cost of paying off a control loss of the aver-E70,000 loan, equivalent to the average house price at that time, was around £750. In 1997 the monthly cost of a Halifax loan of £69,959, (today's average house price), would be £535.

On a yearly basis, borrowers in 1989 paid around £1,200 a year more

for an average priced house than borrowers do now. Wages have risen by 50 per cent since 1989. Mr Bell said that wage growth would determine house price rises

next year. He said: "Employment is going up, real wages are going up but taxes are not. It is still early days for recovery and the idea that the market is going to slow down is wrong."



# Lift-off for a £25bn Sam missile

wo high street lenders are poised to launch shared-appreciation mortgages (Sams) in the new year in a move that could revolutionise the way we think of homeownership and savings. Sams are mainly aimed at older people who have paid all or most of their mortgage but find themselves short of cash. By taking out a Sam. homeowners can convert capital locked in bricks and mortar into ready money in return for sharing future growth in the value of their home with the lender.

Only the Bank of Scotland currently offers Sams. It has two schemes. Homeowners can remortgage on to a fixed 5.99 per cent interest rate and borrow up to the entire value of their home. Here, the level of future appreciation shared is equal to the size of the loan. In other words, a homeowner borrowing 65 per cent of the value of their home (LTV) would give away 65 per cent of its future growth to the Bank of Scotland. More popular has been the zero per cent Sam, which enables homeowners to take an interest-free loan up to a third of the value of their home. However, the level of shared appreciation is three times LTV. Borrowing 20 per cent of the value of your property entails giving up 60 per cent of future growth in its value. In spite of this, Sam mortgages are a

huge improvement on the notorious

home income plans of the 1980s which

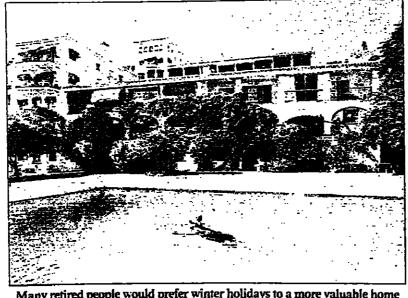
took a share of homeowners' existing

equity and forced people into debt and repossession when property prices fell.

If house prices fall it is the lender which

misses out with Sams, not the home-

owner. Homeowners simply have to



Many retired people would prefer winter holidays to a more valuable home

make sure they can repay the new loan. Sam mortgages are also more flexible than today's improved home income plans which are only available to the over-70s and which generate money which has to be invested in annuities.

n contrast, money raised in a Sam can be spent, or invested, in anything. This could prove dramatic. Homeowners directly own £900 billion of property in the UK. Even if only a fraction of this is unleashed - SBC Warburg, the investment bank behind

all the Sam deals, forecasts £25 billion over the next five years — it will light a fire. Invested, it would send stock markets into orbit; if spent on the high street, it would do the same for inflation.

For now, the drawbacks of Sams are more prosaic. A Sam mortgage is not portable if you move to a new home. Also, if your home's value goes up a lot. buying out a Sam mortgage could prove expensive. However, competition should improve matters.

GAVIN LUMSDEN



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in Europe, change is creating opportunity. With large sections of European industry becoming accessible to investors for the first time, through new share issues, the range of smaller company investment opportunities has never been greater.

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